Hafa Adai!

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US Air Force urged anew to put divert airfield on Tinian

» Inos says CNMI concerns may have been 'improperly discounted, disregarded'
» 50-year, 33-acre Saipan land lease 'quite an undesirable conclusion'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos formally asked the U.S. Air Force on Friday to reconsider its decision to select Saipan as a preferred alternative for a divert airfield and requested that it be built instead on Tinian, adding that the CNMI's longstanding concerns appeared to have been "improperly discounted and disregarded."

Inos wrote a pointed, two-page letter to acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning, copies of which were provided also to U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and other key military officials with oversight over the Marianas.

The Air Force is poised to issue a final environmental impact statement placing a divert airfield on Saipan, despite formal, unanimous requests from key CNMI officials—including former governor Benigno R. Fitial, the mayors of

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FIRST RESPONDERS

Four police officers with drawn guns respond to Kagman High School where an "explosion" occurred and a group of terrorists "opened fire" inside the campus on Friday. The school incident was one of the scenarios of the two-day full-scale all-hazard KONFITMA exercise conducted over the weekend. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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White powder triggers post office evac

» Law enforcers on training deal with real-world situation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa was evacuated Saturday afternoon after a white powdery substance was found in one of the mailbags in the mailroom. The substance later tested negative for any biological or hazardous materials.

"We don't know whether it is sugar or salt or whatever," Police Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after he was informed about the test results at 4:56pm Saturday. At the time, combined law enforcement agencies from the CNMI, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Guam and Hawaii started to pack up the equipment they set up behind the post office.

The Department of Public Safety received a call from a post office employee about the discovery of the white powdery substance at 12:10pm.

Blas said that when the first responders—patrol and traffic officers—arrived at the post office, people were already coming out of the building.

The post office is normally open half-day during Saturdays.

Blas said the officers instructed employees and all other people to move further away from the building.

Officers immediately cordoned off the back of the building where the mailroom is located. The front portion of the building was also secured.

Blas said that, based on the preliminary investigation, one of the postal clerks was emptying out one of

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ACCORDING TO TOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Pregnant tourist stopped at Saipan airport

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A pregnant tourist was stopped by federal agents at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Sunday morning and was ordered to go back to Shanghai early Monday morning, allegedly on suspicion that she would engage in so-called "birth tourism" or travel for the purpose of giving birth to an automatic U.S. citizen child in the CNMI or any U.S. area, a tour leader with knowledge of the matter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

This comes shortly after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) warned that birth tourism could risk the U.S. visa waiver program for CNMI-bound Chinese and Russian tourists that have become important markets for the islands.

Through a translator, the tour leader said in an interview yesterday afternoon that she personally asked the pregnant woman back in Shanghai to consider not boarding the chartered Sichuan Airlines plane bound for Saipan for her own safety and to avoid being questioned by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at

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Cruise the Pacific: A tourism opportunity for Pacific islands

By JUERGEN STEINMETZ
HTTP://WWW.ETURBONEWS.COM

Cruise Tahiti and Polynesia on a South Pacific cruise itinerary. Or visit Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Palau, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and lots more on a variety of sailings.

Travel and Cruse industry representatives say the drive for more remote and exotic locations is a new opportunity for Pacific economies.

But there's disagreement about how ready some countries are for more arrivals.

Cruise liner tourism is still booming and more companies from around the world are looking to the Pacific islands.

In an interview on a New Zealand radio station, the CEO of the South Pacific Tourism Organization, Ilisoni Vuidreketi, says that cruise liners are setting out around the world and taking more and more tourists to exotic locations. He says companies in Miami are telling him they are on their way.

"The islands do have the competitive edge to others. These cruise liners are looking for new destinations, new exotic destinations that have not been visited before, so that's where the Pacific islands countries do offer that competitive edge," he said.

But Vuidreketi says he is sending out a clear message that countries need to improve the infrastructure at their ports and be ready with transport and activities.

"We right now are not fully prepared so the message is, this is the segment that we cannot ignore, this is the segment that we have to look forward and to take advantage of the opportunities of this segment we need to be well prepared for that."

Tuala Oli Ah Him, the president of the Samoa Hotels Association, assured that Samoa is ready for cruise ship visitors.

"Samoa is ready. We are ready for anything. We are ready to take on cruise ships, we are ready to take on a 747. Even though we don't have a proper bus timetable system we do have transport, and we've been doing it for the last decades. Every cruise ship that comes here we are able to cater for them," said Tuala.

Tuala says the huge investment in the upgrade of the wharf in Samoa is one sign the government is switched on. Local media in Samoa has questioned how much a turnoff the Tourism Development Act might be, as it includes jail terms for offenders who publish false information that may tend to harm the tourism industry. But Samoa's attorney general, Ming Leung Wai, says the law is like plenty of others that set up statutory authorities and serves to protect the industry that is so vital to the country.

"There is no intention by the government of Samoa or the Tourism Authority to stop people from expressing any bad experiences that they have. But the way the matter has been reported by some of the media personnel is totally biased and not true," said Ming.

Tuala also supports the Act. "If anybody's going to start badmouthing or trying to sabotage the country they should be punished. We're only a small country and we rely on our tourism. That's our livelihood. We need to put a stop to that and I fully support the act."

Vuidreketi says small islands have the edge with this boom, as even those without infrastructure can attract the ships, which anchor remotely and send short-stay visitors by boat. But he says the on-shore experience must be optimal and destination awareness should be marketed effectively to cruise ship businesses.

Tensuiren Group head impressed with Saipan Awaodori Team

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Awaodori Team's Eliza Lazaro and Itheyvin They dance in front of a crowd together with the Tokyo Tensuiren Group during a recent performance.

No less than the head of the Tokyo Tensuiren Group is impressed with the Saipan Awaodori Team currently performing side by side with them in Japan for a series of Awaodori festivals.

"Saipan kids are so friendly and although there is [a] language barrier in the Tokyo Tensuiren Group (most members don't speak English) they [have] tried their best to make communication with Japanese members very well," said Yukihiro Iwanami, the *rencho* or head of Tokyo Tensuiren Group.

"Their dancing is very active, vigorous in rhythm, and with [a] smile always. They really enjoy performing with us, hopefully they voice out more to cheer up everybody same as how they are on Saipan."

Iwanami said the Saipan Awaodori Team is not only learning dancing or playing instruments but also discipline, cooperation, and adjustments during its stint with the Tokyo Tensuiren Group.

"[The members learned] how to prepare or maintain the things or necessary items of the group as a member. I hope they will gain more experiences to skill up and enjoy more while they are here," added Iwanami.

Five Saipan Awaodori Team members are currently in Japan: musician/drummers Zacarias Sakisat, Mitsunobu and Ran Suzuki, and dancers Eliza Lazaro and Itheyvin They.

Three more Saipan Awaodori Team members—dancers Nyla Julie Sablan Ogumoro, Ronald Fitipol Fernandez, and Cody Josiah Litulumar—left Saipan yesterday, Aug. 11, to join the group in Japan.

PDM Promoters, Inc. CEO and director Misako Kamata said the Saipan Awaodori Team members are trying their best to represent the *hafa adai* spirit during all their performances in Japan.

"We are almost four weeks, performing every weekend on different places and the Saipan members showed their *hafa adai* spirit very well, so friendly to everyone, with energetic dancing and forceful beating of the drum always, making people happy. Everywhere we go recognizing them from Saipan."

Members of the Saipan delegation have also acquitted themselves well even during times when they're not performing, which has endeared them to the Japanese people, Kamata said.

"Even not Awaodori event time... If we are in the train, then they see old people standing, they give their seat voluntarily without instruction from me. If old people carry heavy bag [down the] stairs, our kids [take] it and carry [it] down until the end. If there is baby beside them, they show good face and make her laugh. If small kids around, our kids approach and make friends."

PDM Promoters is the main supporter of the Saipan Awaodori Team and Kamata is looking forward to the team's last three weeks performing in Awaodori festivals around Japan.

"I am so happy to be with them for this Awaodori trip, and I hope this coming three more weeks, with the rest of the group coming, they will have more experience, enjoyment, and of course a [safe] trip. I would like to extend my appreciation to all our supporters. Saipan Awaodori kids promise to do their best, do a good job, and let Saipan be proud of them."

Awaodori is derived from the Tokushima's ancient name, which is Awa, while odori is Japanese for dance.

The Awaodori Festival is held from July to August in Japan and is meant to usher the souls of ancestors during the obon season.

During the festival, groups of choreographed dancers and musicians known as ren dance through the streets, typically accompanied by the shamisen lute, taiko drums, shinobue flute, and the kane bell. Performers wear traditional obon dance costumes, and chant and sing as they parade through the streets.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

NMI Continues Outreach to China Media

The Northern Mariana Island (NMI) continues to receive media coverage in China through the efforts of the **Marianas Visitors Authority's** representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai.

China BTMICE magazine recently featured the islands on three pages, presenting Saipan as a new tropical island option for **MICE (Meetings Incentives Conference Exhibition)** travel. The coverage brought the NMI about $24,000 in advertising exposure.

Several online media outlets have also promoted the NMI has the nearest U.S. destination to China. **Nandu.com** and **Hualong.com** coverage was valued at about $3,500 for their on-line features. **Conde Nast Traveler** also headlined with "Saipan: The Top 1 Diving Place in the World" in a recent issue.

Paid for with a federal grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Local

New policy on minimum qualification for NMC faculty takes effect

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Starting this semester, the Northern Marianas College will hire and accept only faculty members who will meet a new set of qualifications, following the Board of Regents' approval last week of a new policy that mandates a minimum qualification for instructors.

Based on the newly approved policy, NMC will give primary consideration to the highest earned degree in the discipline that the faculty member will teach.

For general education courses, baccalaureate courses, and associate degree courses designed for transfer into a baccalaureate degree, NMC will require a minimum of a master's degree in the teaching discipline or a master's degree in another discipline with at least 18 graduate semester hours in the field. For associate degree courses not designed for transfer into a baccalaureate degree, the new minimum requirement is a bachelor's degree in the field of instruction. For clinical instruction in the nursing department, one must possess a bachelor's degree in nursing.

The ultimate arbiter of qualification of a faculty member is the chairperson of the department.

The new policy, according to both NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., and board chair Juan T. Lizama, was adopted in response to the recommendations made by the external evaluation team of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges that visited NMC last October.

NMC has about 27 instructional faculty members, of which a third is expected to be affected by the new policy.

"In approving this policy, we understood that some faculty members would be affected. However, we also know that the college has taken steps to ensure that faculty affected will be offered alternate options," said Lizama in a statement.

The college had already identified in advance faculty members who will be affected by the new policy and have informed them of the possibility of transferring them or using them in an area that may be of help to NMC.

According to Hart, the new policy helps to ensure that the college conforms with accreditation standards—in particular, Standard 3A—which requires that the criteria for the selection of instructional faculty include

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Adopt-a-Place donors Triple J and Shakir Realty are honored

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council honored on Friday two businesses that have become integral in its effort to revive Chalan Kanoa.

Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho and member Diego Kaipat presented certificates of appreciation to Triple J and Shakir Realty for their participation in the Adopt-a-Place Program, which aims to bring together the business sector and other members of the community in maintaining designated places while instilling a sense of ownership and care among participants.

Representing Triple J during the presentation was its marketing manager, Jay Santos, while Shakir Realty had no less than owner Mustafa Shakir in attendance during the ceremony at the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku.

Camacho said the Adopt-a-Place Program demonstrates the truism that the business sector and community working together is the best solution to the problems we are currently facing.

"In reality it is the community that supports the businesses because that's where they're getting their stuff and vice versa. We need these two groups to link up in order for us to promote safety and healthy living. So, again I really thank Triple J and Shakir Realty for continually supporting our Adopt-a-Place Program. I would also like ask other businesses to do the same so we can work together to promote a safe and healthy living community."

Aside from Triple J contributing all sort of things to the program, its owner, Bob Jones, has also promised to adopt the area from Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa to the Mobil Gas Station in Chalan Piao, Camacho said.

Mustafa Shakir, on the other hand, recently agreed to help the program paint yellow zebra stripes on the unpainted speed bumps on the road from the

See DONORS on Page 5

MARK RABAGO
Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, left, and member Diego Kaipat, second left, pose with Triple J marketing manager Jay Santos, third left, and Shakir Realty owner Mustafa Shakir, second right, after the two businesses were honored for their support of the Adopt-a-Place Program last Friday at the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku. Also in photo is Chalan Kanoa community leader Bil Lely, right.

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PREGNANT

From Page 1

the Saipan airport.

"She refused to listen. She boarded the flight from Shanghai 10:30pm Saturday and arrived on Saipan around 5am Sunday," Shanghai-based tour leader Fenny He told *Saipan Tribune*.

The tour leader, who has been with the travel industry for eight years in different routes, identified the passenger that she said was denied entry by CBP agents as Yu Yan Hu. She said the woman is in her 40s.

At past 2pm yesterday, the *Saipan Tribune* contacted CBP public affairs liaison for the CNMI for comment, and the message was relayed to CBP supervisory officer Frank Falcon along with CBP's Bruce Murley and Joann Winks. As of 8:30pm, CBP has yet to comment on the matter.

The tour leader said this is not the first time that she reminded visibly pregnant tourists in Shanghai to reconsider boarding the plane to Saipan for their safety and welfare. She said the women didn't board the plane.

"But first time that a woman refused to listen and boarded the plane. At the immigration counter on Saipan, CBP officer saw her and asked another CBP officer to escort her for secondary inspection. We learned she's not allowed to enter Saipan and asked to board the flight back to Shanghai early morning Monday," the tour leader said.

She added that the pregnant tourist was with a male companion, possibly her husband.

Since November 2009, the federal government—through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its component units such as CBP—has taken over control of CNMI borders.

The tour leader said the pregnant woman bought a roundtrip ticket from her company, but she doesn't know where the tourist and her companion were planning to stay on Saipan.

"The ticket is for six days travel to and from Saipan. It's about $900 roundtrip. The flight between Shanghai and Saipan is four-and-a-half hours," the tour leader said.

In 2009, DHS granted U.S. visa waivers for Chinese and Russian tourists visiting the CNMI. This means Chinese and Russian tourists can enter and stay in the CNMI for up to 45 days without a need to obtain a U.S. visa.

The tour leader said she thinks she did her best to remind their client-tourists before they even board the plane in Shanghai.

She said tour companies are aware of the birth tourism issue in the CNMI and they have been doing their best to help prevent abuses of the visa waiver program.

"But it's very hard to prevent women from traveling because sometimes you can't tell whether they're pregnant or if they are coming here only to give birth. Travel agents do not want to lose their job, they also do not want to jeopardize travel industry business if there is no longer visa waiver. If they don't help, the visa waiver program could end and everybody suffers because CNMI would lose its advantage over Guam and Hawaii," the tour leader said.

It was not immediately known whether the tourist was able to depart Saipan for Shanghai early Monday morning.

On Thursday, the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Sablan, said this so-called "birth tourism" needs to be discouraged to avoid risking the CNMI's chance of getting a permanent U.S. visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists.

Sablan said federal agencies such as DHS have also been concerned about birth tourism in the CNMI.

POWDER

From Page 1

the mailbags into the mail bin for distribution when he noticed the white powdery substance coming out of the bag.

The clerk dropped the bag and immediately notified the postmaster about it. The postmaster instructed the postal staff to exit and evacuate the building. Police were then called.

As the officers were dealing with the suspicious white powdery substance, DPS and the Division of Environmental Quality's hazmat teams were notified, along with the Homeland Security.

The back portion of the postal building on Brigida Street corner Barbara Avenue was cordoned off. Some roads leading to the back of the post office building were closed to the public. An Incident Command Post was put up near Moon Night Poker.

The All-Hazard Mobile Command Unit and the Homeland Security's Mission Support Unit were brought up to the back of the building.

Blas said that CNMI Office of Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman asked Gov. Eloy Inos to communicate with the Guam governor for authority to let Guam's Civil Support Team help with the situation.

Members of Guam's Civil Support Team were on Saipan at the time for the full-scale all-hazard exercise KONFITMA training.

After being granted authority, the Civil Support Team teamed up with DPS and DEQ.

At 1pm, a four-man team—two from Guam's Civil Support Team, one each from DPS and DEQ—entered the post office building, assessed the situation, and collected evidence.

Blas said they still don't know who the owner is of the mail or package that contained the powdery substance.

POLICY

From Page 3

knowledge of the subject matter, effective teaching, scholarly activities, and potential to contribute to the mission of the institution.

According to NMC officials, the evaluation team had recommended that, "to meet the standards and assure the integrity and quality of programs and services, the team recommends that the college develop, and consistently apply, clear criteria in determining qualifications for faculty."

"This recommendation was restated in the Feb. 11, 2013 Action Letter signed by Dr. Barbara Beno, ACCJC president. In the same letter, Beno stated that the Northern Marianas College must fully resolve the deficiencies noted; otherwise, the commission will act to terminate NMC's accreditation," the college statement indicated.

Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services, said the proposed policy was developed with input from an ad hoc committee consisting of instructional faculty and departmental chairpersons, as well as administrators. They also looked at minimum qualification standards that have been established for other colleges.

"It is clear that ACCJC expects us to put in place minimum qualifications for all faculty, and that those minimum qualifications be applied. We were told that we are expected to fully meet all accreditation standards and eligibility requirements by the time we submit our show-cause report on Oct. 15, 2013, and it is our intention to do so," said Merfalen.

It was learned that some instructors have been asked to teach other subject areas that are within their specialized training or take on other responsibilities at the college.

"We want to minimize the impact of the new policy in every possible way. The chairpersons of each of our academic departments and I have been painstakingly assessing each instructor's credentials to make certain that their degrees, graduate level coursework, occupational licenses and certificates, and other qualifications directly relate to their areas of instruction," Merfalen said.

The policy will be enforced beginning fall 2013 semester.

AIR FORCE

From Page 1

four islands, and the CNMI Legislature—to have it on Tinian.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands have already been leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

The governor also told the Air Force that its request for 33 acres of land on Saipan for the next 50 years "is quite an undesirable conclusion as it would impede future commercial development in the area."

In end-July, the *Saipan Tribune* exclusively reported on the Air Force consideration of leasing for 50 years 33 acres of lands on Saipan, including historic sites such as the pre-war Japanese airfield in As Lito, although there is no formal plan presented to CNMI officials yet.

Inos said in his letter that cost consideration as a factor in placing the divert airfield on Saipan instead of Tinian is "unsubstantiated" and "perhaps an indefensible legal position."

The adverse environmental impacts and cultural and social costs of building the alternative airfield on Saipan "greatly outweigh" the increased economic costs associated with building it on Tinian, he added.

The divert airfield plan seeks to find an alternative airfield in the Marianas for the U.S. Air Force in the event that access to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is limited or denied.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) reiterated yesterday his support to placing the divert airfield on Tinian, but added that it should not pose a danger to the community, nor create air and noise pollution.

Although the EIS and the Record of Decision on the divert facility have yet to be released, the U.S. Air Force's Legislative Liaison told Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) office that the Air Force still prefers to build the divert airfield on Saipan and that "the phases cannot be separated between two different locations" such as Saipan and Tinian.

Inos wrote the letter barely weeks after he and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, along with other CNMI stakeholders, received a briefing from the Chief of the Requirement Branch, Programs Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces.

"…it appeared quite evident that the concerns we expressed after the Draft EIS was issued in 2012 have been improperly discounted and disregarded," the governor said in his letter.

Inos said at the time, his predecessor, CNMI mayors and lawmakers had unanimously asked that the divert airfield be placed on Tinian instead of Saipan, which the Air Force has selected as a preferred site.

Covenant and onward

The CNMI officials' position was based primarily on the fact that when the "Covenant to Establish a

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America" was negotiated, it was agreed that all future DoD activities would take place on Tinian.

This leaves Saipan free to develop commercially.

However, the Air Force is now requesting an additional 33 acres of property on Saipan for military purposes.

Inos said the Air Force is essentially asking the CNMI government to forego the opportunity to use all the remaining commercial airport property at the Saipan International Airport for the next 50 years.

"This is quite an undesirable conclusion as it would impede future commercial development in the area," the governor told Fanning.

'Unsubstantiated, indefensible'

Inos said he was told that the primary reason the Air Force is pursuing the Saipan alternative over Tinian is the cost of construction.

"For many reasons, we find this argument to be unsubstantiated and perhaps an indefensible legal position, especially if such an explanation were taken before the Senate Armed Forces Committee for ultimate determination of where the divert facility should be built," the governor said.

For instance, he said, the directorate of Installations told the governor's office that the Air Force would have to build a control tower on Tinian, whereas Saipan has an existing tower.

"However, we have learned from the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] that a control tower is not necessary on Tinian for commercial jet aircraft because of the proximity of the Saipan tower. Similarly, we were told during the briefing that a C5A tanker cannot land on Tinian, yet a 747 landed there just last year in support of Operation Forager Fury," the governor told the Air Force acting secretary.

Tinian Harbor

Inos said that CNMI officials were also told during the briefing that Tinian cannot be used because of the cost of rehabilitating the Tinian Harbor.

But he said the CNMI has already informed the Air Force that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with the Municipality of Tinian, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Marine Forces Pacific to recondition Tinian Harbor.

The governor said the Marine Corps and Tinian have already put considerable resources into the project and are working to complete it.

"Accordingly, the economic construction cost basis upon which Saipan has been selected as the preferred location is legally suspect and suggests an improper evaluation process under NEPA," he said.

Impacts

The governor said the CNMI is quite certain the adverse environmental impacts, along with the cultural and social cost of building the divert facility on Saipan greatly outweigh the increased economic construction costs associated with building the facility on Tinian.

For example, as reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its July 2012 review of the project, the noise impacts alone that Saipan residents and three public schools living and situated near the airport will be subjected to are predicted to be "severe."

On Tinian, there are no schools or neighborhoods that will be subject to adverse impacts if the divert project is located there, Inos said.

"As governor, it is my duty to take necessary steps to protect the health and welfare of CNMI residents who would unnecessarily be exposed to noise levels that could put them at risk for potential hearing loss and bring great stress into their daily lives," Inos said.

'No economic sense'

The governor said the choice to build the divert airfield on Saipan is not at all in conformance with the spirit of law Congress enacted to guide the relationship between the CNMI and various U.S. military entities.

He said that, as provided in the Covenant, the U.S. was committed to the policy of seeking to acquire only the minimum land area necessary to achieve public purposes.

"Our islands are incredibly small in size and DoD is already in possession of two-thirds of the entire island of Tinian. Military uses on that island can be diversified and expanded if future geopolitical developments so demand," he said.

On the contrary, the governor said, potential future military uses of land on Saipan are extremely limited because of limited land space and therefore, further expansion on Saipan is impossible.

"By putting the facility at the Saipan International Airport, the Air Force automatically loses 17 percent resiliency and the decision makes no economic sense in the bigger picture of life in the Northern Marianas," the governor added.

Joint Air Force-Navy plan

The governor also urges Fanning to work with the Navy secretary to develop a joint Air Force-Navy plan for the use of DoD-leased lands on Tinian to contain both the Air Force divert facility and the Marine Corps Training Center.

The Marine Corps is in the process of completing an EIS for new training facilities on Tinian that will maximize the use of lands already leased on Tinian, including a Marine aviation refueling system similar to what the Air Force has planned for Saipan.

Inos said building the divert facility on Saipan would duplicate DoD expenditures—"something that Congress would certainly frown upon."

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that a planned 50-year land lease on Saipan by the military poses important questions and concerns that need to be carefully reviewed.

CUC chief defends personnel hiring, salary packages

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Reacting to criticisms about an alleged hiring spree and huge compensation given to ranking executives, acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher said the agency critically needs qualified personnel in order to ensure the reliability of utility services.

Because CUC is working under a consent decree as a result of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lawsuit, Fletcher said that two court orders—called stipulated orders—lay out a series of projects, programs, and actions that the agency is legally bound to undertake.

The lawsuit and stipulated orders respond to violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act, affecting CUC's power, water, and wastewater utilities.

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* that part of those requirements was an organizational evaluation and reorganization plan that affected the overall structure of the utility. He pointed out that under the stipulated orders, 23 posts need to be filled in order to fulfill all requirements of the orders.

"Many of the positions listed in the reorganization plan are required to be filled with employees meeting certain professional and educational requisites. In all, 23 new positions were identified, some of which were filled by off-island professionals. Many of the positions have been filled by our resident workforce, whether by new-hire or employees upgrading their skills," he said.

Today, CUC is recruiting for several positions but this is due to turnover, according to Fletcher.

"Simply, employees that decided to change jobs or contract employees whose contract term have expired. Included in these staffing needs is the labor for new programs approved by EPA under the SO's. These new programs must be staffed in order to operate and failure to operate would be a violation of SO. Other considerations in recent recruiting are the goals of providing greater customer services and, again, replacing workers who have left CUC," he said.

» '23 posts required by SO, wages within agency system'

Wages and salaries are determined by a combination of factors, he said, mostly centering on the labor market and the demands of the positions.

"We require a lot from our employees, and in many cases, long term employees have gained professional licensing or technical certifications that result in higher pay," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fletcher concedes that the highest paid positions are the top levels such as executive director, deputy directors, chief financial officer, chief engineer, and petroleum and compliance manager. He insists, though, that all wages and salaries fit within CUC's salary administration program. This plan is due to be updated and is currently out for bid.

While meeting the requirement of the stipulated orders does have a cost, Flethcer said it has also reaped benefits such as working to provide 24-hour water to the CNMI.

He disclosed that as of 2013, about 95 percent of CUC's Saipan water customers now receive water 24-hours per day, up from about 50 percent in 2011.

"We have been able to increase both the availability of and the quality of water service to more customers by such programs as implementing engineering projects to maximize the flow of water throughout the system, reducing water theft, and repairing leaks. Improved leak detection equipment, continued leak repairs, and new projects will enable CUC to reach our goal of providing all customers with water service for 24-hours each day, every day of the year."

Other benefits are in power generation where the hiring of more qualified workers has helped CUC to improve operations.

According to Fletcher, only three of Power Plant 1's seven engines were operational in 2009 and the average fuel efficiency was about 12 kWh per gallon.

"After several years of dedication and hard work by CUC power plant staff, as well as grant funds provided by the Department of the Interior and CNMI Department of Energy, the average engine efficiency at Power Plant 1 has increased to approximately 15 kWh per gallon," he said. This represents a 25-percent improvement in fuel efficiency, which results in savings to the citizens and businesses of the CNMI of $11 million annually through lower fuel costs in the LEAC, he added.

"In addition, we only have to look back a few short years, to the 2008-2009 time frame, when a lack of system maintenance brought forth by fiscal crisis resulted in rolling brownouts, sewerage overflows, and regular drinking water boil-order notices. Since 2010, we have increased maintenance and new construction as well as improved the overall quality of services. However, that success will be short-lived without us hiring and retaining qualified staff," he said.

Fletcher said that CUC is working to become a modern, efficient, and consumer driven utility. "We have enjoyed successes in infrastructure improvements, service reliability, and customer services. We still have a long way to go to meet our goal and we remain committed to doing so."

Prayer † to the HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. **AMEN**.

Say this prayer for three days without mentioning the favor you are asking for. After the third day, the wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has been granted.

DONORS

From Page 3

Chalan Kanoa Kiosku leading up to the old Laderra International School.

"Shakir Realty will contribute the paint and other supplies to have these speed bumps painted finally. So motorists cannot be victimized," Camacho added.

Shakir echoed Camacho's call that the business sector and the community should work hand-in-hand to uplift conditions on the islands.

"The Northern Marianas is a tourist place and we need people coming in. Businesses like us and Triple J and everybody in the business community should do something for the community," he said.

For his part, Santos said seeing a revitalization of the Chalan Kanoa community is very important to Bob Jones and company and their four businesses here.

The four businesses of Triple J located in Chalan Kanoa are Triple J Five-Star Wholesale Foods, Sandy Beach Homes, K-Mart Truckload Store, and its planned Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club that will be built on the site of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel location.

"We're here to support the Municipal Council and whatever they need to help clean up our community and make it a great place for business and great place to live. It's really a great place to live. It's close by the church, the post office, shopping, and schools. So we certainly want to see a revitalization of the Chalan Kanoa community," said Santos.

Camacho said if the CNMI is really serious in investing in its No. 1 industry of tourism, it should start by investing in making the community safe and beautiful first.

"A lot of people are talking about tourism but we need to fix ourselves first from inside out. We need to apply this thing [Adopt-a-Place]. The solution to the problem is to continue the business sector and local community working together here on the island."

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BIGGEST KONFITMA TRAINING EVER IN CNMI

2 'killed,' over 10 'hurt,' 10-15 'arrested' in simulated attacks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least two persons were "killed," over 10 were "injured," and 10 to 15 persons were "arrested" during a simulated terror attack on Saipan in the biggest two-day full-scale all-hazard exercise KONFITMA over the weekend.

The 4th annual KONFITMA training concluded with a real-life situation when participants had to respond to an actual incident at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa, where a white powdery substance was found.

"I can't speak enough highly about these guys after working and being up since 3 o'clock yesterday [Friday] and then had to deal with this [post office incident] all day," CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday.

"These gentlemen are top notch," said Seman, who was at the post office scene.

Seman said that local enforcers partnered with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Guam's Civil Support Team.

Today, all KONFITMA participants will gather for the after-action report, where they will look at ways on how to improve their response capabilities.

Seman said the training is bigger this year because the incidents were spread out all over the island.

This year's scenario: A group of extremists are upset with how the federal and local governments were running the island. Intelligence information was passed out and law enforcers did a stakeout and watched the group.

The operation started Friday at 6:30am when a suspicious package was dropped off in front of the Governor's Office. Response team collected and analyzed the samples collected from the device.

The second scenario occurred at the Tourism Oriented Police substation in Garapan, where a similar device went off. Officers were kept busy responding to 911 calls.

A third incident was reported at 8:30am over at Palms Resort Saipan where officers found a "possible hostage situation."

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Department of Public Safety's Tactical Response Enforcement Team and responding police officers study the map of Kagman High School where a group of terrorists "detonated" a bomb near the school's gate and "opened fire" during the KONFITMA exercise on Friday.

Police later received a call about a "gas explosion" at Kagman Community Center. At 11:40am, the terrorists "detonated" a bomb at Kagman High School and were shooting at school employees.

At La Fiesta, an "explosion" took place as terrorists were building bombs and one accidentally went off.

At Radar in Marpi, one of the extremists was holding out. The responders went there and took him out.

On Saturday, three scenarios occurred at Upper Miha Housing, at the four-story Telesource building in As Lito, and at the Saipan airport.

At Miha housing, extremists were trying to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. The Civil Support Team and the CNMI team conducted a joint operation and tried to collect samples and render the area safe.

At Telesource, the enforcers received information that terrorists were trying to culture biological specimen. The same team worked together to address the situation.

"Explosives" were found at the airport. The Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel handled that situation.

As the KONFITMA participants were busy with the three scenarios, they received information about the actual discovery of a powdery substance at the post office in Chalan Kanoa.

Seman said they had to pull out from the training and respond to the real-world scenario at the postal office. He said everybody pulled out and regrouped for the post office incident.

KONFITMA is partnership between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Defense, and various agencies to test the response capabilities of law enforcers and many agencies.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Two police officers secure a suspected terrorist who "opened fire" at Kagman High School on Friday as part of KONFITMA exercise.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPW/SWMD-156

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 28, 2013
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESEVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Division Monthly Reports
- b. Update on CDBG Matters
- c. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
- d. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
  - 1. Loans for Review and Approval
- e. Garapan Properties for Sale/Lease – 003 D 16 and 003 D22

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- a. Rota Field Office
- b. Tinian Field Office

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
- a. Amended FY 2014 Budget
- b. Fiscal Division Audit Reports
- c. Tottotville Settlement

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

CALL YOUR SENATOR

"NO".....MEANS...."NO"

*Without **your** voice to **STOP it**, the Senators will approve Saipan CasiNOs.*

*Tell the Senators that **CasiNOs are NOT WANTED on Saipan!***

The RICH will get RICHER, the rest of us will SUFFER!

Don't believe their LIES!
"No...MEANS..NO"

CasiNO!

***NO** to Drugs*
***NO** to Crime*
***NO** to Poverty*
NO to CasiNO

USP4GG signature petition goes online

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aside from the 2,000 signatures it has collected as of last week through its local signatures drives, the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas Chapter has also launched an online signature drive toward its goal of "ending discrimination against CNMI residents in the U.S. immigration reform bill."

As of 1pm yesterday, the online petition (www.change.org/petitions/end-discrimination-against-cnmi-residents-in-us-immigration-reform-bill) had 25 signatures and 47 supporters.

One of those who signed the online petition said she and her family have been on Saipan for decades yet they still don't feel like part of the community.

"Me and my family had been here for decades and I feel the pain that we are not given the chance to better our life, to freely travel, invest something for our kids, and be able to be part of the community. I thought during my early years on Saipan that someday we can become residents because this is U.S. soil, that whoever dreams to become a resident—by doing good to fellow individuals without regards to ethnicity, paying taxes, no criminal record, contributing to the welfare of the community, and living here as long as we are productive—will someday reap the blessings from Uncle Sam. I was wrong. Why are we being discriminated and sometimes marginalized? Most of us are legal aliens here who stayed and worked here for decades. We are human beings that need the compassion, love, and moral obligation that should have been given to us ever since...which is so long overdue," Marivec Callejo wrote on the online petition.

The online petition takes issue with the S. 744, the comprehensive immigration reform bill that the U.S. Senate passed on June 27, 2013. Although it is the most monumental overhaul of U.S. immigration laws in a generation—clearing a pathway for millions of undocumented residents to have a chance at citizenship—USP4GG claims the bill specifically excludes undocumented workers in the CNMI.

The group said many of these workers have lived in the CNMI for as long as 25 years, most of whom came on working visas to work in the garment and other industries but who overstayed their visas when the garment factories closed in 2009 and their services were no longer needed.

USP4GG added that many young people brought to the CNMI by their parents are also ineligible to apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival because of the five-year continuous U.S. residence requirement, which will not be met by many because of the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service interpretation that since Public Law 110-229 became law only on May 8, 2008, and implemented on Nov. 28, 2009, residence in the CNMI before that time is not considered residence in the U.S.

Section 2109 of the Senate immigration reform bill also excludes foreign workers in the CNMI from receiving employment authorization for a five-year period unless an employer offers them employment and only for as long as they are employed by their employer. Thus, USP4GG said, employment renewal is totally under the employer's discretion.

The online petition said this anti-worker provision was included in S.744 by the same vested political and economic interests that employed the services of convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff to exclude the CNMI from being required to comply with U.S. minimum wage laws.

"It is the product of lobbying by those vested interests in the CNMI who want to keep workers' wages low and who want to prevent the 'illegal' workers from legalizing their status and eventually earning the right to vote," the online petition states.

Man gets maximum 1 year for touching a woman's privates

A 47-year-old man was slapped with a maximum term of one year in prison for touching the privates of a woman in a parking lot of a hotel.

Benito A. Jardenico will serve his sentence without the possibility of parole. He was given credit for 8 days of time served.

Jardenico pleaded guilty to assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N.Camacho admonished Jardenico that women should be treated with respect and dignity.

Camacho said the defendant's actions of "copping a feel" are inappropriate and demeaning to women.

Jardenico fondled the woman on March 24, 2013, on Saipan. Prior to the incident, the woman reportedly argued with her boyfriend and was crying.

Assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty had recommended a sentence of one year and six months in prison for both charges. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Jardenico, recommended one year in prison.

Jardenico's wife, who was at the hearing, was seen crying after the judge announced the sentence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Calvo's SelectCare CNMI-80 Philippines only	$ 65.05	$ 130.10	$ 196.50
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*Some conditions apply

Contact StayWell at 323-4260/61/62 or elplinske@staywellguam.com for more information

SCS Saipan Computer Services is on SALE!

Coral Ocean Point Resort Club

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Has openings and is inviting experienced qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(10) Greenskeeper: $5.55 - $6.36. High School Diploma or equivalent. Have at least 3 to 5 years work experience and knowledge in maintaining and monitoring golf course greens, such as verticutting, aerating, top dressing, irrigation, edging banker, green pin placement. Able to operate golf course mechanical equipment such as tractors, fairway mower, green mower, tee mower, etc. Must be able to prepare and use ground chemicals. Have the ability to follow oral and written directions.

(3) Groundskeeper: $5.55 - $6.05. High school Diploma or equivalent. Have at least 1 or more years work experience in landscaping or grounds maintenance using hand or power tools or equipments. Have some knowledge of methods of landscaping.

(1) Automotive Mechanic: $ 5.55 - $7.50. High School Diploma or equivalent. Have at least 3 or more years of work experience in full range skilled repair and maintenance on automobiles, small engines such as golf course equipments, heavy equipments, and other mechanical and electrical equipments.

(1) Sales Representative: $5.55 -$6.05. High School diploma or equivalent. Have at least 2 or more years work related experience in sales and/or marketing. Knowledge of principles and methods for showing, promoting and selling products or services, marketing strategy, tactics, product demonstration, sales techniques and sales control system. Knowledge in golf tournament policy and procedures preferred but not required.

(1) Japanese-Korean Sales Representative: Salary subject to qualification and experience. Associate's Degree in business-related field such as marketing, sales or business management, or its equivalent. Have at least 3 or more work experience as a successful sales person. Have knowledge in analyzing sales statistics to determine sales potential and monitor the preferences of customers. Knowledge in golf tournament policy and procedures preferred but not required. Must be able to speak, read and understand both Japanese and Korean languages.

(2) Front Desk Clerk: $5.55 – $6.05. High School Diploma or equivalent. Have at least 1 or more years work experience in the hospitality industry. Have knowledge of principles and processes for providing excellent customer and personal service skills. Have basic computer and keyboarding proficiency. Able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required.

(2) Bell Attendant: $5.55 - $6.25. High School Diploma or equivalent. Have at least 1 or more years work experience in the hospitality industry. Have knowledge of principles and processes for providing excellent customer and personal service skills. Able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs. and have valid CNMI driver's license.

(1) Golf Starter: $5.55 - $6.05, High school Diploma or equivalent. Have at least 1 or more years work experience in the hospitality industry. Have some knowledge in the game of golf and its standards. Have a valid CNMI driver's license. Able to speak additional language is preferred but not required.

(1) Accountant: $5.55 - $6.50. BA Degree in Finance or Accounting. Have at least 3 to 5 years work experience in accounting. Have knowledge of economic and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, bank analysis and reporting of financial data.

(1) Food & Beverage Supervisor: $5.55 - $8.55, High School diploma or equivalent. Have at least 3 or more years work experience in the hospitality industry. Have knowledge of principles and processes for providing excellent customer and personal service skills. Able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Have the knowledge in supervising wait staff and peers. Able to obtain a Food Handler Certification.

(3) Cook: $5.55 - $6.25. Associate's Degree or higher in Culinary Arts, may be substituted for 5 years work experience in preparing quality International food production. Have knowledge in food production and processing. Able to obtain a Food Handler Certification.

(2) Waiter/Waitress: $5.55 - $6.05, High school diploma or equivalent. Have at least 1 or more years of work experience in the hospitality industry. Have knowledge of principles and processes for providing excellent customer and personal service skills. Ability to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Able to obtain a Food Handler Certification.

(1) Maintenance Supervisor: $5.55 - $8.55, High School Diploma or equivalent. Have 2 or more years of higher level education and training in general maintenance and repair. Have 3 or more years work experience in general maintenance or other maintenance responsibilities that would include monitoring daily operations of power plants, generators and water pumps. Have the ability to recognize electrical, plumbing, and mechanical malfunctions or equipment failures. Have knowledge in supervising staff and peers.

(3) General Maintenance: $5.55 - $6.25. High School Diploma or equivalent. 3 or more years work related experience in maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds that would include carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry and painting tasks. Knowledge in performing minor troubleshooting, repairs and adjustments on locks on doors, cabinets, etc.

Skills testing maybe required for some positions. Applicants must be able to work in extreme weather condition, and flexible to work on shifts, weekends, and holidays.

Application form can be picked up at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, Human Resource Office located in Pro-shop Bldg. All interested individuals must submit completed application forms not later than August 14th at 2pm. Applications submitted after the deadline date and time will not be considered.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Operations Manager (01)

Job Duties: Responsible for supervision, training, and management of Operations Department including but not limited to: attendance, company policy & procedure compliance, service & performance training, etc. Ensures highest standard of performance from the team. Follow up and deal with all related administration issues. Responsible for organizing, planning and conducting all kinds of expeditions, travel, and tours for groups and individuals by working closely with other department managers. Ensures all travel arrangements run according to plan and that accommodation, meals and service are satisfactory. Ensures that the tour is running smoothly for individual members of the group. Able to make and coach Operation Coordinators in designing flexible tour packages to meet the needs of different clients. Maintain effective working relationships with staff, clients, and visitors. Identify customer needs and ensure their continued business with the Company. Proactive in creating a sales culture through our people. Works closely with GM & other Department managers to maximize occupancy of rooms and meetings, rates, yield and average spends by implementing appropriate training and communication systems, also to evaluate sales performance and product on a regular basis in order to recognize challenges for the future. Actively seeks all sales and revenue opportunities both internal and external to increase the profile of company. Should be flexible and adaptable according to business/project adjustment. Responsible for required reports and maintaining records. An efficient problem solver. Report to GM/VP when assistance or support is needed. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: High school diploma and College Majors in Tourism and Travel Services Management is preferred. Previous 3-5 years work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required. Has high attention to details, is creative, and able to work with a team. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good negotiation and communication skills. Able to solve problems and has good public relations skills. Able to deal with emergencies. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Operations Clerk (02)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Salary will be paid and positions will be filled commensurate with qualification, work experience and ability to perform. Worksite locations are on Saipan and at all Century Tours, Inc. offices. Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

GUAM BRIEFS

Guam preps for spotlight on crash-stabbing trial

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Court officials in Guam are preparing for significant attention from foreign media on the trial of a man accused of killing three Japanese tourists in a car crash and stabbing rampage. *Pacific Daily News* reported Wednesday the Guam Judiciary is preparing to accommodate a high level of interest in the case of Chad De Soto. Court Director Joshua Tenorio of policy, planning and community relations said the court's goal is to balance the interest with making sure due process is delivered. Tenorio said that's a concern for both the judge and attorneys. "Our priority is to maintain decorum in the courtroom so that the matter can be advanced," Tenorio said. De Soto is accused of driving onto a sidewalk and striking seven tourists in a shopping area, then getting out and stabbing people. De Soto faces a mandatory life sentence if convicted of any aggravated murder charges. Tenorio said the court has been trying to be proactive, in part by giving foreign press guidelines for the U.S. justice system. The court has not set a trial date for De Soto. De Soto has pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental illness, leaving his options open under Guam law to use an insanity defense without admitting to committing the offenses.

Bill would establish Guam Veterans Court

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A special court allowing for the judicial intervention for veteran defendants in need of substance abuse treatment, mental health of other treatment would be established under a bill introduced in Guam. Sen. Frank Aguon introduced the Justice for Veterans Act 2013 bill Tuesday. *Pacific Daily News* reports the Guam Veterans Court would be for eligible veterans or active duty military members being tried in the criminal justice system on felony or misdemeanor charges. Aguon says active, Reserve or National Guard service members may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries, depression or substance abuse problems. He says there is a critical need for the justice system to recognize their service while also providing accountability for any wrongdoing and offering treatment. Those charged with crimes of violence wouldn't be eligible.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 12, 2005

Massive leaks at power plant

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel delivery system and tanks are deteriorating fast and need urgent attention or the government would face severe federal fines, according to a final report submitted by two consultants hired by the CNMI government to help upgrade CUC's power plants. In the same report, consultants Ramon "Kumoi" S. Guerrero and Roger Kitchingham warned that if CUC pursues its privatization program for Power Plant 1, the financially distressed agency would collapse. In a seven-page report dated July 26, 2005, Guerrero and Kitchingham said that the overground pipeline from the dock to Power Plant 1 "is not in great condition" and, if not inspected in the next 18 months, "then serious deterioration will set in, causing more expensive and continuous repairs."

MPLA seeks complete listing of NMI descents

The Marianas Public Lands Authority launched yesterday the long overdue Northern Marianas Descent Registry, which aims to be the sole comprehensive list of all indigenous people. During a brief ceremony held on the sprawling greens of Coral Ocean Point, Gov. Juan N. Babauta proclaimed September as Northern Marianas Descent Registry Month and urged concerned individuals to register with MPLA. Article XII of the CNMI Constitution defines a person of NMI descent as one who is a citizen of the United States and who is at least one quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro and/or Carolinian blood. An adopted child of such an individual also qualifies as a person of NMI descent, if he or she was adopted while under the age of 18 years.

August 12, 2006

7 survive plane crash

A full seven-seater Piper Cherokee plane en route to Tinian crashed at 2:15am yesterday, a minute after taking off from the Saipan International Airport. No casualties were reported. All seven passengers, including the main pilot and a co-pilot, suffered major injuries and were rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center. In a news briefing at past 9am yesterday at the airport, Commonwealth Ports Authority officials described the incident as "a forced landing" half a mile southeast from the airport's runway 25. No information has been released yet as to the cause of the crash.

Airport alert raised to 'orange'

Security threat alert level was elevated to "high" or "orange"—the second highest alert level—in all CNMI airports yesterday following the arrests in London of 21 people reportedly connected to a terrorist plot against airlines traveling to the United States. As part of the stricter measures being implemented, Immigration director Melvin Grey said that airline passengers are prohibited from carrying liquid or gel in their carry-on bags when traveling. "We are boarding no liquid on the plane. We're currently in 'orange,'" said Grey in an interview at the Saipan International Airport yesterday.

August 12, 2007

NMC girds for 2nd WASC report

Northern Marianas College is gearing up for its second progress report to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation committee while faced with many challenges, including funding shortfalls, a lack of teachers, and a probationary status with the accrediting body. NMC president Carmen Fernandez said Friday the second progress report is due on Oct. 15. Fernandez said that NMC has been trying to comply or at least address WASC's recommendations to address the college's probationary status.

Sugar King cultural center officially opens

After months of work, the newly constructed Northern Marianas-Japan Cultural Center at the Sugar King Estate in Garapan was officially unveiled in a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Friday morning. Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, who led the ceremony attended by government and travel tour agency officials, said the opening of the center marks a milestone as it solidifies the friendship between Japan and the Commonwealth. Four flags were flown at the Sugar King Estate Amphitheater during the ceremony: the U.S., CNMI, Japan, and the Saipan Municipality official flags. The $250,000 amphitheater kicks off several phases of the project.

2 House panels recommend PUC nominee's confirmation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications have jointly recommended the confirmation of Bank of Guam's Dave B. Guerrero to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations will hold a public hearing on Guerrero's nomination to the PUC tomorrow at 1pm.

Guerrero is currently a Bank of Guam assistant vice president, and has been in banking and finance business since 2005 in California, New York, Guam, and the CNMI.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed Guerrero to serve as a PUC member on June 21.

PUC has regulatory oversight of all utilities entities in the CNMI including telecommunications, power, water, wastewater, and cable television. The commission is composed of five members appointed by the governor.

The governor's appointees to PUC are subject to the House and Senate's confirmation.

"Your committee reviewed all of Mr. Guerrero's documents on file and finds that he has met all the necessary requirements pursuant to Public Law 15-35, as amended. Accordingly, Mr. Dave B. Guerrero is qualified to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission," the House PUTC and JGO Committee said in a joint report to House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

The report comes about a week after the two House committees held a public hearing on Guerrero's nomination.

In that public hearing, four spoke up to support the nomination, including former representative Stanley Torres, Vincent Seman representing the Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of directors, PUC chairman Joseph Guerrero, and John "Jay" Santos.

"Dave epitomizes determination, fairness and compassion. It's these qualities that are most needed at the CPUC particularly in these challenged times in providing utilities to the community that is consistent yet affordable," Santos said in his written testimony attached to the House panels' joint report. "Our community needs individuals like Dave at the CPUC to ensure that our best interests are foremost when important decisions must be made."

The joint committee report was signed by 11 of 14 members of both the JGO and PUTC Committees chaired by Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), respectively.

If confirmed by both houses of the Legislature, Guerrero will serve a four-year term to commence on the date of his confirmation.

Guerrero has a master's degree in economics from California State University-East Bay, and a bachelor's degree in economics from California State University-Hayward. He also earned an associate degree in liberal arts from Northern Marianas College on Saipan. He was an adjunct instructor at NMC from August 2009 to December 2012.

The PUC nominee is also a certified anti-money laundering specialist, and is licensed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority formerly known as the National Association of Securities Dealers.

CNMI Supreme Court suspends Buckingham

The CNMI Supreme Court has suspended former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from the practice of law in Commonwealth courts for failing to pay his 2013 annual membership Bar fees.

In an order issued by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos on Thursday, the justices said the president of the CNMI Bar Association notified the high court on Aug. 6 that Buckingham failed to pay his 2013 annual membership dues.

In the same order, the justices also suspended attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, also for failure to pay annual Bar dues.

The order did not mention the amount of dues.

"Pursuant to Article 6, Section 5, of the bylaws of the Bar, these members are hereby suspended from the practice of law in the Commonwealth Courts forthwith," the justices said.

Buckingham is currently facing 12 criminal charges filed by the Office of Public Auditor in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of sole-source contract, among others.

In June 2013, Buckingham left Saipan shortly after Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted his request to leave the Commonwealth and return to the state of Colorado so he can receive medical treatment. Buckingham's trial will be on Feb. 3, 2014. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Navy, Air Force training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Navy, Air Force: Aug. 12, from 11am to 9:30pm
- Air Force: Aug. 13-14, from 6pm to 9:30pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Aug. 13, from 9am to 3pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Obama's Putin snub

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Thursday, Aug. 8:*

If it's a refusal to engage with Russia, that would be bad. But more likely, it's political Kabuki theater.

If President Obama's decision to cancel a summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin signaled a refusal to engage with Russia on matters of mutual interest, we'd be concerned. Although Russia lacks the superpower status of the now-defunct Soviet Union, it retains a veto on the U.N. Security Council and could still play a constructive role in resolving the civil war in Syria. The two countries also have unresolved bilateral issues, including further reductions in nuclear stockpiles and Russian objections to the deployment of a NATO anti-missile system in Poland and Romania.

But it appears that the president's refusal to hold talks with Putin in Moscow next month doesn't in fact constitute a rupture in conversations between the two countries, which will continue at other levels. It's better viewed as a clear but calibrated expression of displeasure over the Russian government's granting of asylum to Edward Snowden and its growing hostility to political dissent, civil rights and the activities on Russian soil of international human-rights groups. Russia also oppresses its gay and lesbian citizens. Last week, the country's sports minister said it would enforce a new law against "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations," including gay pride demonstrations, during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

In announcing that Obama wouldn't engage in talks with Putin, the White House cited a lack of progress in negotiations on a variety of issues. But Obama may have offered a truer explanation of his decision to snub Putin in an interview with Jay Leno on Tuesday. "There are times when they slip back into Cold War thinking and Cold War mentality," Obama said. "What I continually say to them and to President Putin (is) 'That's the past.'"

By "Cold War thinking," Obama was most likely referring to Putin's decision to shelter Snowden as if he were a defector from the enemy. But that's just one example; the current Russian government too often has relapsed into heavy-handedness similar to that of the Soviet Union. And a vein of xenophobia runs through policies as diverse as the Kremlin's crackdown on organizations that promote democracy to a law banning the adoption of Russian orphans by American couples.

Because it doesn't end other contacts between the U.S. and Russia, cynics will say that Obama's decision to cancel the summit is political Kabuki theater and that it won't change any minds in Moscow. Perhaps not, but the president is entitled to register his objections to Russian conduct by actions as well as words. And this action speaks louder than anything Obama might have said to Putin at a ceremonial summit meeting.

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FRANKENBURGER'S
BEING A MAD SCIENTIST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE...
EAT MOR TEST-TUBE BEEF
DO YOU WANT EYES WITH THAT?
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Majulah Singapura

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We chanced last Saturday on the National Day Parade of Singapore, a live broadcast from TV's NewsAsia, and streamed live on the Internet.

Singapore glowed in white and red, yellow, green, blue, gray, along all the colors of the rainbow, as one group after another, from children to elders, civil and military, paraded and performed for an island massively attired in tropical casuals led by the father-son Lee Kwan Yew-Lee Hsien Loong, leaders since the country's inception without forced dynastic succession. Wedged was Goh Chok Tong who followed LKY, was PM for 14 years before LKY's son, a former general, took over.

What made us perk up while watching the show is the recent acknowledgement from the book, *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy,* that metropolises in the U.S. fuel the nation's economy and is defining a new local polity. The account had columnist Tom Friedman write: "…if you want to be an optimist about America today, stand on your head. The country looks so much better from the bottom up—from its major metropolitan areas—than from the top down…the great laboratories and engines of our economy are now our cities."

We promoted a trans-rational geo-social grid of the world since the '70s. We divided the world around major metropolitan areas: NYC, Chicago, Houston, LA, Vancouver, and Montreal, for North America, one of nine continents we identified from three spheres. Sphere West was North America, Western Europe, and Eurasia (former USSR). Sphere East was SubAsia, China, and Southeast Asia-Pacifica (SEAPac). Sphere South was South America, Southern Africa, and North Africa and the Middle East (NAME).

NAME and SEAPac are nebulous. SEAPac to us is a continent of six metropolitan areas: Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Sydney, and Suva. After the lead of the earthrise image from the moon, the national boundaries so precious to the post-colonial arrangements faded in the new global configuration. The metropolises were defining political and economic arrangements.

Singapore went ahead even in the cultural pole. This year, its theme of "many stories, one Singapore" recognizes the function of stories and how unity can be attained in the recognition of diversity. Just start with its three major languages of Chinese, Malay, and Tamil, and its overarching Singalish, and already the cultural challenge is formidable. We've felt that Singapore was too small a geography and too specialized in its financial and commercial practices (thought of Singapore as primarily a transit point that encouraged a lot of bookkeeping shenanigans) that we earlier dismissed it as an exception rather than the rule.

Now comes an account in the aforementioned book of a metropolitan revolution stirring in America. Not content to wait for Washington to get its act together, the authors relate how pragmatic leaders are taking the helm of governance in cities like NYC finally capitalizing on its diversity; Portland, Oregon, deep in selling "sustainability" solutions to urban problems, and Northeast Ohio where groups use industrial-age skills to invent 21st century materials, tools and processes. Then there's Houston helping immigrants ascend the employment ladder, Miami forging ties with southern "neighbor" Brazil and other nations, Denver and Los Angeles building world-class urban centers, and even Boston and now bankrupt Detroit finding innovative ways into the economy of the new century.

Coming through strongly in their stories are the catalytic and facilitative nature of the network of leadership in the new metropolises. Sounds like Singapore.

Obviously, Saipan is no Singapore, though some argue that with a casino on Saipan, it can. Sorry, folks. Zhongguo already has Macau and Hong Kong, and Korea has offerings we cannot even come close to duplicating for well-off Nippon and *nouveau riche* Renmin. Tinian casino has yet to make a dime. Nope. Pentagon looms too large in the shadows and we do not have the political muscle of a Guam to assert ourselves beyond being a strategic military location. At best, we can stick a handout further for more food stamps, or surreptitiously promote baby tourism since we do not do money laundering well!

We are not being cynical here, though we are not surprised many of our young are. We can develop a catalytic and facilitative leadership style, willing to look reality in the eye, forsake the illusory economic boom of the past (we could not even connect water pipes, though we did provide cushy jobs in government and its agencies) forego the delusion of grandeur in the future (we are Pentagon's strategic military location), and live with what we've got: a handful of Chamolinians, lots of Chinese, Filipinos, a sprinkling of other Micronesians and Austro-Polynesians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, Indians, Caucasians via America, Australia, and Europe, Africans from all over, et al. Hey, we have enough ingredients to make up an incredible stew. So, why don't we?

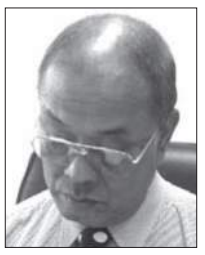
That's what we can learn from Singapura—many stories, even many directions, but one concerted endeavor. *Biba* Marianas?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Death and destruction: Are they really 'phony' Mr. President?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Employing his enormous political skills, President Obama tried to shift the national conversation from the anemic economy to universal preschool. He's hell bent on avoiding accountability for his failed policies being felt everywhere.

In his quest, he called mounting investigations of scandals by the U.S. Congress "phony." As he wildly goes about avoiding full acknowledgment of his failed policies, the crowd could smell burned leather as the ground below his feet starts imploding and exploding.

Most Americans across the fruited plain were woefully annoyed, especially the more than 3-million jobless folks who have given up looking for work.

Then there's the postponement of the president's signature policy known as Obamacare that heavily imploded as libertarians, conservatives, and moderates rally support to repeal it altogether.

Ironic that even the IRS staff charged with implementing Obamacare refuse inclusion in the program, including members of Congress who approved it. It shows a near total dysfunction in policy formation.

Then came the actual exemption of members of Congress and their staffs from Obamacare while all others across the country must do without subsidies. It boils down to two sets of rules trashing the fate of all other Americans while protecting politicians.

Perhaps the single-most riveting rebuttal to the president's "phony" assertion came from the mother of a soldier killed in Benghazi. She said she would take the president to his son's grave and ask him right then and there if it's phony.

As the president flies nationwide to bully pulpit irrelevant issues, a local paper in Chattanooga, Tennessee, came out with a rebuke telling Mr. O, "Take your jobs plan and shove it." Ooops! It's a bit too hard a nugget to chew. Subsequently, the editor was booted from his job for his perceived incendiary commentary.

I admire the president's superb oratorical ability, but when people are hungry, jobless, and have to endure hopelessness, the use of bully pulpit isn't the answer, Mr. President. They need jobs and jobs creation could only emerge with foundational wealth creation.

The economic hardship nationwide isn't "phony," Mr. President. Buckle down and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with folks in counties, cities with listless economies, states where you're ready to destroy thousands of jobs. Listen intently to the pulse of the folks who pine for leadership. You owe it to them right here and now!

Reassessing the future

It is said that history doesn't point to the future. But it gives you a perspective on how you got here through the years.

The woefully sluggish economy or near-total meltdown isn't a reason to despair. But it is more the reason to cement resiliency and resolve to pull the bull's horn so we domesticate the beast. This grand task begins with the self!

The city of Pittsburgh, famous for its steel products, turned into a listless economy when its global famed product crashed. More than half of its 2.2 million people left.

Its corporate sector, in concert with city hall and other key players, converged to remap investment. The University of Pittsburgh became the center of the planning process. Gradually, it turned the city into the hub of high-tech products, medicine, and medical equipment. It's back on its feet, humming as it meticulously follows its blueprint to attract more investments.

What's my point? The CNMI must shake off its myopic entrenchment with failed policies. It must purposefully revisit regressive policies, federal and local. In each, it could easily make its case to reverse federalization of immigration and minimum wage. It must supplement this with complete reform of its utility rates, fees, and taxes.

With revenue decline concurrently crossing with deficit spending, what in this fiscal phenomenon did policymakers miss as though it's business as usual?

Retirees' fate: Leper on the table

A decade or so ago, politicians from all persuasions had the grand opportunity to fix the bankruptcy of the Fund. It came down to the real "essence" of time. They either do it or sink it. They decided to sink it. They've done a superb job ensuring it goes broke.

They would have killed the beast—bankruptcy—but decided to sing "que sera sera" a bit longer. The eleventh hour is here and no matter the settlement agreement in court, the issue of setting the program up so that it could stand on its feet financially is basically history.

Bankruptcy is back as a two-headed corn snake, morphed into a hybrid black rock python that politicians thought they've killed years ago. It's back and the sucker is now weaving its way into our chicken coop and pigpen. When it's large enough, our livestock would be devoured each dawn and dusk. When would the elected bunch dispose of their myopic view?

As digital age descends

The iPad, Kindle, hi-tech laptops, and the entire nine yards have started changing education in the U.S. We now have online colleges and universities. There's now an "online" public school in Arizona and a few other states. The descent of the digital age would change education from its traditional mode as we know it. We should prepare for it.

The use of high-tech devices by young pupils has their eyes glued to the screen. They ignore everything else, including useful conversation with their parents. It is the emasculation of parental role found in normal everyday life that may suffer. It would likely translate into kids suffering discipline and communication skills as they eliminate familial interaction.

I've seen this on occasional visits with my grandchildren. If I didn't say anything while they're busy on the screen, it's easy leaving without being noticed. Not sure either how to deal with it. Neither am I ready to hear, "Grandpa, you're a big bother!" So I usually leave a bit troubled that we never had that family conversation grandparents look forward to when visiting. And so I stopped visiting!

Let's pass the 'Stop Republican Nonsense Act'

By BARBARA SHELLY
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Have you heard about U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins' "Stop Government Abuse Act"?

No? Well, then, you probably don't know about the "Stop Playing on Citizen's Cash Act," either. Or the "Regulation From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act."

All were part of "Stop Government Abuse Week," a dog-and-pony show that leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives put together so that Republicans can have something to talk about during their summer recess. Unable to pass a farm bill, make progress on immigration reform or show signs of a budget breakthrough, the majority party of Congress settled again for cheap stunts aimed at embarrassing President Obama's administration and making sure citizens remain aggrieved.

Jenkins' bill, which has no prayer of passing the Senate, would allow citizens to record meetings and telephone calls with federal regulatory officials. According to a press release from the Topeka Republican's office, it would also "rein in excessive federal bonuses, allow agency heads to fire reckless employees on the spot, and stop those under investigation from receiving salaries paid for by the American people."

That's not exactly the way to get talented people to go into public service. Work for the federal government, kids, and check your legal rights at the door.

According to The Washington Post, "Stop Government Abuse Week" was weeks in the making. The House Republican Committee has even prepared a planning kit for lawmakers to use while on break. They are advised to spend their time seeking out groups "that may have experienced difficulty receiving tax-exempt status from the IRS," and meeting with "respected companies and businesses" whose executives are inclined to blame President Obama's health care reform law for workforce reductions.

Lest we forget, the House's final order of business Friday was a vote to repeal Obamacare. That would be repeal No. 40.

Are you disgusted with the lack of productive business getting done in Congress? Let's scuttle the game plan. Your representatives will be home for five weeks. Find out where they'll be appearing in public and go ask why they can't pass a farm bill. Ask why they haven't sent a single spending bill to the president. Ask when they're going to lift sequestration. Make then answer your questions, not just lapse into their faux-outrage jargon.

And then let's propose a vote on a new bill as soon as they get back to Washington. That would be called the "Grow Up and Do Your Job Act."

Barbara Shelly is a columnist for the Kansas City Star. *Readers may write to her at:* Kansas City Star, *1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at bshelly@kcstar.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monopolizing the CNMI casinos

I attended all the Senate hearings and I learned something new each time about the adverse effects of Saipan casinos. But it was at the last meeting that the final peace of the puzzle was exposed—a monopoly on the Saipan casinos. At the Senate hearing on Rota it was revealed in a testimony by Juan Pan that the "exclusive rights to Saipan casinos" in the bill is virtually creating a *monopoly*! It dawned on me that he was not only right about the bill creating a monopoly, it dawned on me that this whole casino thing for the past decade has been virtually a monopoly game to control the board (our tourist industry).

It was also revealed on Rota that the "governance" of the gaming industry needs to be improved. For example: The regulations and accountability on Tinian may not be the same as on Rota. Another difference is on Rota only the golf course can open a casino, which is literally a monopoly for Rota's casino industry. The question was also raised: Why not allow any hotel or resort to open a casino on Rota. But more important was the fact that the casino bill as written is guaranteed to kill Rota's casino industry as there is no hotel or resort with over 100 rooms on Rota. This is a clear example of monopolizing. We could indeed be creating a law that is really in violation of federal law!

I'm sure most readers know about the game Monopoly. In the simplest of terms, the CNMI is being played just like the Monopoly game. The Tinian and Rota investors beat the Saipan investors around the board by making a deal first and now the Saipan investors are doing everything they can to kill the Tinian and Rota investors by establishing casinos on Saipan. The Saipan investors just can't land on the right square (the people's consent) and they have been going around the board for a decade with no luck. But more important is the fact that all people of the CNMI have endured unnecessary suffering because our leaders *only* wanted the casino investors to roll the dice. The investor who wanted to mine pozzolan, the investor who wanted to start a ferry service for people and cars from Sugar Dock to Tinian, the potential Made-in-the-U.S. shoe factory and a host of others were never been given a chance to play, which is why we haven't heard anything but casinos for 10 long years.

The sad part about this game of Monopoly is that people have been forced to watch the game from the sideline and live under deteriorating conditions for the past decade. We have been viewed as sideline players waiting our turn—a turn that only comes once every two years in the voting booth. And for those who can figure out the players, you will have solved the mystery of which investor is really controlling the game (the CNMI) and holds the most property on the board. In fact, the person who wrote the letter "*Things will change drastically through the people's powerful votes"* already told us the main player that has us under his thumb. Learn the game people and be ready for the next election!

P.S.: Numbers are what drive business, and we will never get the airlines to open up routes until the numbers prove to be profitable, period! Therefore, the CNMI must find another way to bring in tourists and build the visitor numbers, which is why I have been hammering on the need for ferries to bring tourists from Guam to the CNMI. There is nothing wrong with Guam being the airline destination for tourists who want to vacation in the Marianas and gamble, especially for Rota. Ferries should have been our first step to revitalizing our economy through the casino industry on Tinian and Rota, not another casino on Saipan.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

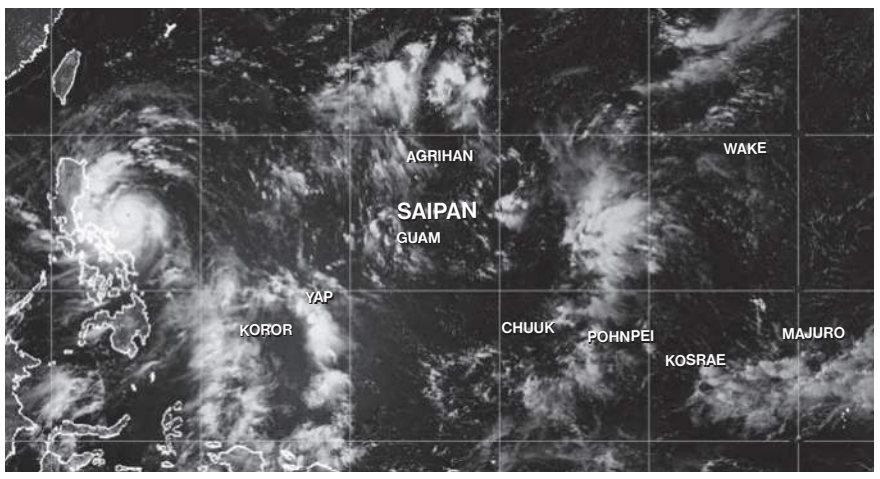
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼74
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲90	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲87	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼43
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65
Osaka	Sunny	▲97	▼79
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼53
Pusan	Windy	▲89	▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼70
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough reaches southeastward from near the Philippines through 14N130E then passes between Koror and Yap at 8N137E to end at EQ141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen just west of Koror within 115 miles of a line from 11N132E to EQ133E and also near Yap within 85 miles of a line from 11N138E to EQ139E. Three upper-level lows are centered near Guam at 13N146E southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 19N152E and near Iwo To island at 24N144E. Upper-level divergence associated with these lows is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Iwo To Island north of a line from 21N138E to 21N150E. Isolated thunderstorms are found farther south just west of the Marianas Islands between 12N and 20N from 136E to 143E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 13N150E to 20N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present east of Saipan between 14N and 16N from 150E to 152E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 3N153E to 15N162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring north of Pohnpei within 175 miles of a line from 18N158E to 8N156E. Scattered showers are evident between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 8N156E to 1N153E. A pronounced trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls but south of Kosrae and Majuro within 160 miles of a line from 3N163E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
12:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:12 AM	10:12 PM
Tuesday	11:06 AM	10:59 PM
Wednesday	12:03 PM	11:49 PM
Thursday	1:02 PM	
Friday	2:01 AM	12:44 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
0Z1077	4:50am	7:10am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
DL583	5:50am	8:30am	2, 5, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
0Z612	3:40am	7:20am	Daily
0Z119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
0Z1087	10:00pm	2:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
DL582	8:30pm	1:00am+1	1, 4, 5
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z611	9:10pm	2:40am+1	Daily
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

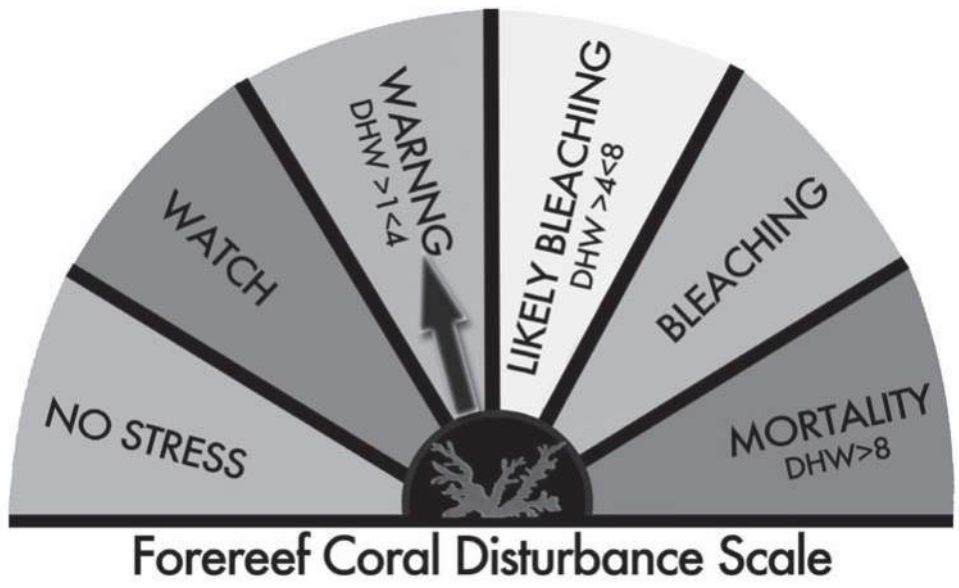
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

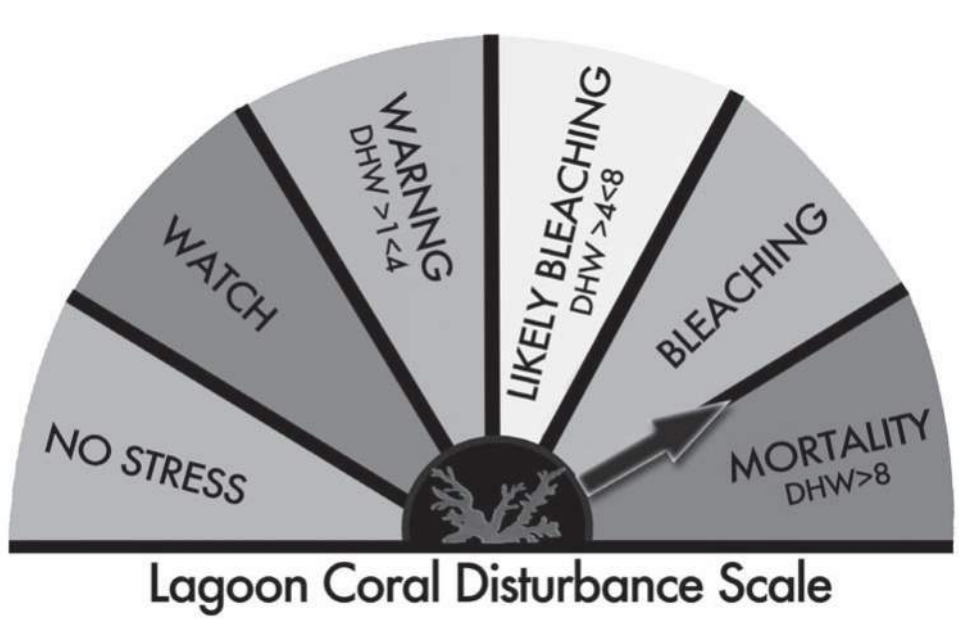
CRM calls for the public's help in protecting reefs

Local and federal management agencies are working together to create a reef disturbance response plan for the CNMI, and we need the public's help. Disturbance can be anything from an oil spill or ship grounding to an over-abundance of crown of thorns starfish or observed bleaching of the coral. If you see any of these things, we want to know.

Corals surround the CNMI and offer a variety of benefits. They protect shorelines, support fishing, offer shelter and food to marine species, are home to medicinal breakthroughs, and provide revenue through tourism. Corals are animals that live symbiotically with an algae called zooxanthellae. Corals are clear, but they get their vibrant colors from the zooxanthellae; it also provides food to the corals (carbohydrates) through photosynthesis. If the ocean temperature becomes too warm for too long the zooxanthellae stop producing food and instead produce compounds that can poison or damage the coral. To protect themselves the corals ejects the zooxanthellae, leaving it with a white, bleached appearance. The bleached coral can recover if ocean temperatures return to normal and the algae return, but without the zooxanthellae the corals often starve to death.



Forereef Coral Disturbance Scale



Lagoon Coral Disturbance Scale

Corals are very sensitive and most of them are already living near the upper maximum of their temperature tolerance. The main cause of coral bleaching is an increase in sea temperature called thermal stress; an increase of just 1°C (1.8°F) can already start to stress the coral. If the temperature continues to increase or stays steady over a prolonged amount of time the coral will start bleaching. The metric we use to account for both temperature increase and elapsed time is called the Degree Heating Week, or DHW. If a coral is exposed to a 1°C increase for four weeks, that is called 4DHW's, which is the same as a 2°C increase for two weeks. This is important because we can expect widespread bleaching at 4DHW's. At 8DHW's the stress is enough that many of the corals typically cannot recover and die. For the CNMI this is of greatest concern during the summer months when temperatures are at their highest and tides are low. Though the CNMI has not hit 4DHW's in the last decade we can probably expect to start approaching these levels in the near future, as many of our friends throughout Micronesia have.

Coral bleaching is a natural process, but the concern is the rate at which coral bleaching is occurring. Other occurrences that may cause stress to corals are an increase of UV radiation, disease, overfishing, violent storms and heavy rains flooding the reef, exposure to chemicals, increased sedimentation, and an increase in pollutants and nutrients coming from land. The best thing a community can do is keep an eye on our reef and practice environmentally friendly land and marine practices such as carpooling, removing trash correctly, minimizing chemical and fertilizer use, not burning, and boating and fishing responsibly.

To keep you updated we will be periodically posting the scales below to let you know how our corals are doing. Diagrams show our current standing:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- **No Stress** – Corals are doing well.
- **Watch** – Temperatures are above the norm, but corals are not stressed.
- **Warning** – Corals are experiencing a low level of thermal stress. DHW >1 <4 (Temperature is above 1°C, but below 4°C)
- **Likely Bleaching** –Corals are stressed and are reaching a level where bleaching is possible. DHW >4 <8 (Temperature is above 4°C but below 8°C)
- **Bleaching** – Corals are starting to bleach. Temperature is above 4°C but below 8°C. Corals are experiencing a widespread bleaching and mortality is possible.
- **Mortality** – The coral has starved and died; there is no chance of recovery. DHW >8 (Temperature is above 8°C)

Source: CRMO, Office of the Governor

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-022

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified consultant or consulting firm to review and revise the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's current Salary Administration Program (SAP), including the development of a performance management rating and payment system.

The RFP package and the scope-of-work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **August 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-022, Salary Administration Program", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Frankie Cepeda, CUC Human Resource Manager via email frankie.cepeda@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-024

TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Tank Nos. 103, 120 & ISO Tank Cleaning at CUC Power Plant, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The "CUC" or "Corporation" currently operates multiple diesel engine generators at its Power Plant Nos. 1 and No. 2, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. The CUC is soliciting proposals from experienced contractors or specialist firms experienced in the cleaning of fuel storage tanks up to 1 M USG capacity.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It is the corporations' desire to undertake cleaning of the Bulk tank # 103, as soon the new tank #102 under construction is commissioned:

The work shall be done in two phases:
- **Phase 1 - Tank #103 (840,000 gal.)**
- **Phase 2 – Miscellaneous tanks – Tank # 120 (20,000 gal.) & ISO tanks, 2 ea. – 6,350 gal.**

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 29, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Literacy celebrated as 2013 'Dig Into Reading' concludes

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 2013 "Dig Into Reading" summer program concluded last Friday with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales and Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi reminding everyone about the value of literacy.

"Today we celebrate another milestone. This is probably one of our most popular programs for the entire year because it involves reading. We are celebrating imagination, we are celebrating fun, and we've got tens of thousands of books in our collection that we're proud to offer at our Children's Library," said Gonzales.

He said the "Dig Into Reading" summer program gives the state library and the community a chance to celebrate literacy and what is neat about it is it's all for free.

"Today we are celebrating what literacy is all about. Next school year you will reap the rewards of continuing to empower our kids on the love of reading and to develop lifelong learners. This is your library we welcome everybody. All we ask is your membership. All you need is to get a library card."

For her part, Naputi said recent studies show that reading over the summer prevents reading loss as well as promotes a lifelong passion for reading.

She said through the program, reluctant readers can be drawn to reading because it does not only incorporate reading but also other kinds of activities like arts and crafts, watching movies, listening to guest speakers, and everyone's favorite—including the parents and volunteers—field trips.

Naputi said one participant this summer alone went from not wanting to register at all to eagerly awaiting the coming of Tuesday after a long weekend just to attend the "Dig Into Reading" program. The summer program was from Tuesday to Saturday.

This year, participants were also given a reading log and those with the most books read were given the first chance to spin a roulette wheel were various prizes were attached. Prizes ranged from waterpark passes, to lunch buffets, to $10 gas cards, and various gift certificates.

The top reader read an amazing 80 books, while the runners-up read some 50 and 40 books, respectively.

Even participants who were not able to read 10 books got an opportunity to spin the wheel so each of the roughly 80 participants of the program went home with a prize.

JKPL's "Dig Into Reading" summer program has been ongoing since 2006 and was made possible through a $1-million grant in 2005.

In addition to that, Gonzales said every year JKPL receives tens of thousands of dollars from competitive grant funding.

"We always work hard to also ask the business community to donate educational tax credit monies so we can continue to expand and replace the damaged books that you're so fortunate to have," he said.

The 2013 "Dig Into Reading" summer program's sponsors are Joeten Ace Hardware; Aqua Resort Club, Chong's Corp., Coca-Coca of Saipan, D&Q, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Horizons, JET Holdings Co., McDonald's Saipan, Megabyte, National Office Supply, Pacific Islands Club, Subway, World Resort Saipan, IP&E, Taco Bell, Bridge Capital, JCT Enterprises, and Sandcastle.

For more information about the program, visit JKPL during its regular hours, Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm, and Saturday from 9am to 4 pm. The library is closed on Sunday, Monday and holidays. Call the library at 235-7316 or 7322 or visit its website, www.cnmilibrary.com.

MARK RABAGO

Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi explains to the 80 or so participants of the 2013 "Dig Into Reading" summer program the importance of literacy's during the program's concluding event last Aug. 2 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

JKPL to launch e-books in October

The Joeten Kiyu-Public Library will be supplementing its expansive book collection with e-books starting October 2013.

JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales made the announcement during the concluding event of the 2013 "Dig Into Reading" Summer Program on Aug. 3 at the Children's Library.

"We will be having e-books come October and if you have a Kindle, a phone, or a tablet you will get access to electronic books. The e-books can be obtained through your library card and you can have as much as 10 books to borrow for a month's period and once that 30 days is up then that book disappears like magic. If you want to renew, come back here and we will renew it for you. That's one of the exciting pilot projects we're doing come October," he said.

The public library will also be launching its new website and will unveil a new set of audio-visual books in Oct. 1.

The new website will be launched in four schools: Garapan, Tanapag, Kagman, and Koblerville elementary schools.

The new audio-visual books, meanwhile, will help children become emerging readers by learning how to read with a headset and a laptop.

"So when you come here we're going to have a laptop or computer stations so kids can learn how to read through self-paced reading through a headset and a computer. You're going to learn technology and use the Internet. You're going to learn how to use laptops or computers to read books," Gonzales said.

He is inviting everyone, young and old, to take advantage of the library's varied facilities.

"We're excited and tell everyone to come to the library and travel the world through books without TSA [Transportation Security Administration] checkpoints and without a need for a passport. All you need is that library card here and at the Rota and Tinian public libraries. Congratulations for making our public library the best public library in Micronesia." ***(Mark Rabago)***

REGISTRATION STARTS

Northern Marianas College outreach counselor Hedwig Hofschneider assists a student with filling out the college's admission application for the fall 2013 semester during a recent information session. Registration for NMC's fall 2013 semester begins today, Aug. 12, and will continue until the day of late registration on Friday, Aug. 16, 2013. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu.

NMC

Navy awards $20M contract for Guam realignment work

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded on Aug. 7, 2013, a $20.2 million firm-fixed price task order to Guam MACC Builders A JV, a large business, for ongoing Guam realignment work.

"With this contract award, the Department of Defense continues its commitment to establish a Marine Corps presence on Guam," said Joe Ludovici, principal deputy (acting) Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment. "This contract award marks a positive step as we continue the preparations to support the Marines in Guam. We are making steady and continued progress, not only because we award this new contract, but because we near the completion of the Apra Wharf improvement and the first increment of the North Ramp Parking project. As the National Environmental Policy Act process comes to a close in 2015, I expect the amount of projects awarded to steadily increase."

This multiple award construction contract task order will continue development of the North Ramp Parking area and the North Ramp Utilities infrastructure, which will provide a fully functional aircraft rinse facility and associated taxiways to support current and future Marine Corps aviation training in Guam. The North Ramp Utilities fuel distribution work was not previously awarded to ensure proper phasing and sequencing of North Ramp Parking and North Ramp Utilities construction within the same footprint.

In April 2011, a $73 million firm-fixed price task order was awarded to Tutor Perini Corp. of Sylmar, Calif., under the Guam Design-Build Multiple Award Construction Contracts for the construction of the aircraft parking apron at Andersen Air Force Base known as the North Ramp Parking Increment 1 project, or P-101. The ongoing work includes the construction of an MV-22 aircraft parking apron, hot mix asphalt apron replacement pavement and wash rack facility. ***(USN)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BIDS
CUC-ITB-13-023

SURVEYED VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-13-023, CUC Surveyed Vehicles"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles.

The vehicles may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 235-7025.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 14, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Assistant for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-025

TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the out of service inspection and integrity testing of the above ground oil storage tank (AST) # 103 and connected pipeline within the secondary containment at CUC Power Plant No. 1 in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The inspection is expected to be in two phases:
1. ***Out of service pre-repair inspection after tank cleaning, and***
2. ***Final tank inspection after performing the necessary repairs based on the scope of work developed during Phase 1.***

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 14, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-026

Capitol Hill Pressure Improvement and Waterline Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Capitol Hill Pressure Improvement and Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of installation of new waterlines, cut and cap and tapping to existing waterlines in Capitol Hill Housing Blocks 1200 and 1300, Pohnpei Way, and Isa Drive; installation of new pressure reducing valves, gate valves and fire hydrants. The work is also inclusive of installation of new water lateral lines, reconnection of all existing water meters, asphalt paving restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $250.00 (non-refundable) at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 23, 2013** at 1:30 PM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.14, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-026, Capitol Hill Pressure Improvement and Waterline Replacement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 12, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 26, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-028

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PREPAID METERS

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-13-028, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 9, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 23, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email at alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org & Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles.warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

PREL congratulates Pacific region's Teachers of the Year

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pacific Teachers of the Year are joined by 2012 U.S. National Teacher of the Year Rebecca Mieliowocki at the 2013 Pacific Educational Conference on Saipan.

HONOLULU, Hawaii—PREL is pleased to congratulate the Pacific Teachers of the Year.

The Pacific Teachers of the Year gathered at the 2013 Pacific Educational Conference on Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on July 16–19, 2013. Each of PREL's 10 jurisdictions selected their entity Teacher of the Year. Corporate sponsorship—including PREL, the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, Matson, and United Airlines—enabled the Pacific TOY to both attend and present workshop sessions at the 2013 PEC.

The Pacific Teachers of the Year were welcomed with a reception hosted by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and received awards and gifts from PREL and HMH. A special TOY gala was sponsored by the CNMI Public School System, held on July 18, where the Teachers of the Year were honored and heard special remarks from the 2012 U.S. National Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Mieliowocki. Pacific TOY conducted workshop sessions during the PEC to share effective and successful lessons and learning strategies from their classrooms.

The 2013 Pacific Teachers of the Year are: Iose MuasauAfu, Tafuna High School, American Sāmoa; Florencia Afituk, Central Wonip Elementary School, Chuuk; Peter Loken, Garapan Elementary School, CNMI; Mary Anne Angeles, Oceanview Middle School, Guam; Karen Kutsunai, Kailua Intermediate School, Hawaii; Jesse L. Cornelius, Sansrik Elementary School, Kosrae; Juliet Ngotel, Palau High School, Palau; Emmy Rose Gilmete, Enipein Elementary School, Pohnpei; Connie Joel, Ejit Elementary School, Republic of the Marshall Islands; and Owen Tharngan, Gagil Elementary School, Yap.

Gilmete, Pohnpei's Teacher of the Year, had these to say: "I'm honored and humbled to have been a part of the 2013 Pacific TOY Program. It has been a tremendous experience for me. I'll always be grateful for this opportunity to share and learn from the many great teachers throughout the region."

PREL is an independent, nonprofit corporation headquartered in Hawaii, with service centers in American Sāmoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. ***(PREL)***

Megapode expert to talk about this unique bird specie

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management will host a science-focused public presentation on the avian family Megapodiidae, or megapodes, on Thursday, Aug. 15, at the American Memorial Park auditorium, Saipan, from 6:30pm to 8pm. Everyone is invited to attend and learn about this unique family of birds, one species of which (the Micronesian megapode) occurs in the Marianas. The presenter, Dr. René Dekker, is a world authority on megapodes and director of Collections at the National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, The Netherlands.

A Micronesian megapode

Dekker has been involved in megapodes conservation and research since 1985, when he was appointed project leader for the conservation of the Maleo (*Macrocephalon maleo*) in Sulawesi, Indonesia, where he lived and worked for 18 months. Since this time he has been involved with various megapode studies and has served on advisory committees for megapode conservation. Dekker has also acted as chairman of the IUCN/SSC/WPA Megapode Specialist Group for 22 years. With his Australian colleague, Darryl Jones, he has published a book on megapodes for Oxford University Press, wrote IUCN/SSC conservation plans, and published multiple articles on the evolution and breeding strategy of megapodes. During his work, Dekker has visited many places to study megapodes, often on remote islands such as the Nicobars (India), Niuafo'ou (Tonga) and Waigeo (Papua).

Megapodes are unique among birds because of their aberrant breeding strategy that utilizes heat from decomposition, geothermal activity, or radiant energy from the sun to incubate their eggs. Such a strategy, however, puts their large, yolk-rich eggs at risk of being harvested and consumed by humans in many parts of their range. This has led to the decline of many species, some of which are considered endangered according to IUCN criteria. Megapodes occurred on numerous South Pacific islands in the not-so-distant past but many were exterminated by early settling Polynesians. Like the flightless rails that also occurred on many of these same islands, at least 20 species of megapode have become extinct; only 22 species remain.

Dekker's presentation will illustrate and describe the variety of megapode species and delve into many aspects and explanations of their distribution, behavior, evolution, and conservation. As at all APASEEM talks, questions from the audience are strongly encouraged. For more information visit the www.apaseem.org website or write to us via apaseem@gmail.com. ***(APASEEM)***

Investigation rules that sailor's death was accidental

SANTA RITA, Guam—A command investigation into the death of a Guam-based U.S. Navy sailor has determined the death to be the result of accidental drowning while free diving.

Navy Diver 3rd Class Robert Dotzler, 22, of Kiel, Wisconsin, was assigned to the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* when he died on June 19 following a dive operation at Alpha Pier on U.S. Naval Base Guam. Dotzler was discovered unconscious in the water and was transported to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam where he was pronounced dead at 11:27am.

Characterizing Dotzler's death as "tragic," the investigation concluded that his death was accidental and occurred in the line of duty.

In concluding his endorsement of the investigation, *Frank Cable*'s commanding officer, Capt. Nelson P. Hildreth, characterized Dotzler as a "dedicated sailor" who "served his country with pride and performed admirable work" during his time aboard.

Dotzler reported to *Frank Cable* in 2011. Prior to his assignment in Guam, he was stationed at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Florida. Earlier in his Navy career, Dotzler had been nominated for the Command Advancement Program, which recognizes stellar sailors through meritorious advancement in rank.

Hildreth stated that Dotzler's "strong professional contribution to both *Frank Cable*'s Dive Locker and the art of underwater husbandry will be sorely missed." ***(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)***

Business

BoH accepts grant applications for small businesses on Saipan

GARAPAN, Saipan—Bank of Hawaii is now accepting applications for the I Kinometi Para I Kumunidåt I Islå-ta Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant for projects that will foster small-business development and economic activity within Saipan. Small-business owners are invited to submit applications by Aug. 16. The award is open to small-business owners with a successful track record in operating a business or management experience, and provides five grants of $5,000.

The bank established the grant program in 2012 to help promote new Saipan businesses and to encourage existing small businesses to expand.

If not already completed, grant awardees are required to successfully complete one of the following before Nov. 25, 2013:

- CNMI Small Business Development Center small business training program.
- Bank of Hawaii Smart Money small business financial education training.

Grant awardees are also expected to report back to the bank by Nov. 25, 2013, on how the grant has made a difference to their business and the community.

Application forms are available at Bank of Hawaii's Garapan and Chalan Kanoa branches or by contacting the Saipan regional manager John Sheather at (670) 237-2951. Applications should be submitted to: Saipan Regional Manager John Sheather, Bank of Hawaii Bldg. Suite 100, Marina Heights Business Park, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan, MP 96950.

"Bank of Hawaii is committed to encouraging economic development to help our communities grow and thrive. In addition to this grant program, Bank of Hawaii continues to support the Saipan community through grants made by Bank of Hawaii Foundation and through the work of its employees who actively volunteer and serve on the boards of local non-profits and community groups," the bank said in a statement Friday. ***(Bank of Hawaii)***

Obama inks student loan deal, says job isn't done

AP

President Barack Obama signs the bipartisan bill to cut student loan interest rates, Friday, Aug. 9, 2013, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama signed into law Friday a measure restoring lower interest rates for student loans, pledging the hard-fought compromise would be just the first step in a broader, concerted fight to rein in the costs of a college education.

Encircled by lawmakers from both parties in the Oval Office, Obama praised Democrats and Republicans alike for agreeing—finally—on what he called a sensible, reasonable approach to student loans even as he cautioned that "our job is not done."

"Feels good signing bills. I haven't done this in a while," Obama said, alluding to the difficulty he's faced getting Congress, particularly the Republican-controlled House, to approve his legislative priorities, such as gun control and budget deals.

"Hint, hint," he added to laughter.

But even the feel-good moment at the White House came with reminders of the bitter partisanship that still makes future deals incredibly difficult for Obama. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, called the law part of the "Republican jobs plan," while House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said it "stands in stark contrast to the House Republicans' plan to saddle families with billions more in student debt."

The rare compromise emerged only after a frenzy of summer negotiations, with lawmakers at odds over how loan rates should be set in the future even while they agreed that a doubling of rates—it kicked in July 1 when Congress failed to act before the deadline—would be bad policy and bad news for students.

ITC issues import ban on some Samsung products

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple won a partial victory in its long-running patent dispute with Samsung on Friday when a federal administrative panel found Samsung in violation of two Apple patents and blocked imports of some Samsung devices.

Even as the U.S. International Trade Commission found Samsung in violation of the two patents, it cleared the South Korean company on four other patents in dispute.

President Barack Obama's administration has 60 days to veto ITC rulings. Over the weekend, the administration invalidated a June order that sided with Samsung and banned imports of Apple's iPhone 4 and a variant of its iPad 2. But the patents involved in Friday's ruling aren't of the type that Obama found objectionable.

Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. are in a global legal battle over smartphones. Apple argues Samsung's Android phones copy vital iPhone features. Samsung is fighting back with its own complaints.

The legal disputes come as competition in the marketplace intensifies. Samsung has been cutting into Apple's dominance in phones and is now the leading smartphone manufacturer. Samsung is also pushing into Apple's territory with its own Android tablet computers.

Nation

Teen found safe in Idaho; her alleged abductor is shot dead

AP

This combination of undated photos provided by the San Diego Sheriff's Department shows James Lee DiMaggio, 40, left, and Hannah Anderson, 16.

CASCADE, Idaho (AP)—A harrowing weeklong search for a missing California teenager ended Saturday when FBI agents rescued the girl and shot and killed her apparent kidnapper at a campsite deep in the Idaho wilderness.

Hannah Anderson, 16, appeared to be uninjured and will be reunited soon with her father at a hospital, authorities said. Her suspected abductor, James Lee DiMaggio, 40, was killed after his campsite was found in Idaho's rugged Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, roughly 40 miles from the tiny town of Cascade.

Hannah was taken to a hospital where crisis counselors and health care providers were assisting her. Her father was expected to arrive in Idaho on Sunday to reunite with her.

"We will make sure she gets as much care as possible, physically and emotionally," said Andrea Dearden, a spokeswoman from the Ada County Sheriff's Department who has been leading the communication team for the interagency effort in Valley County.

The shooting came after officers participating in a massive manhunt for the pair spotted the campsite from the air and an FBI hostage recovery team trekked to the site near Morehead Lake.

"No one really knows where an investigation like this will lead," said Mary Rook, special agent in charge of the FBI's Salt Lake City division. "In this case, our team faced a very challenging situation."

The FBI said it was sending a team to investigate what unfolded before, during and after the shooting. Authorities offered few details Saturday night.

The location wasn't far from what had been the last known sighting of the pair. A horseback rider called authorities Thursday night to report that on Wednesday he had seen two people who resembled Anderson and DiMaggio with camping gear on a trail near the lake. The rider, whose name wasn't released, didn't realize they were subjects of a massive search until he got home and saw news reports.

Funeral held for Pa. boy who was parents' best man

JEANETTE, Pa. (AP)—In his short life, the 2-year-old Pennsylvania boy who died days after he served as best man at his parents' wedding touched the hearts of many people.

The Rev. Jan Zotter told a funeral audience Saturday that Logan Stevenson's life "had an impact over the whole world."

About 75 family and friends attended the service at the Mason-Gelder Funeral Home in Jeannette, about 25 miles east of Pittsburgh, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported.

Christine and Sean Stevenson had planned to marry next year but moved the ceremony to Aug. 3 so their son could participate after the couple learned he had weeks to live.

The child, who died Monday night in his mother's arms, had leukemia and other medical complications, including a mass on his remaining kidney.

"He was a fighter," said Seth Antoniak, who was with Logan and the couple as they exchanged vows. "He was 2 and had everything thrown at him."

Some people attending the service left notes with pictures of Logan on poster boards bearing such headings as "Sweet Baby," "We Miss You Already" and "The Best Man."

"Even though it was heartbreaking to let you go, Heaven is very lucky to have you," said a note from Logan's grandparents, Debbie and Larry Stevenson.

Zotter said that when a child dies, everyone asks why. But such questions are "mysteries of God that we can't fathom," he said. He assured the boy's relatives and friends that they will one day understand the reason, when they are reunited with him.

"Logan is with God, the Father," Zotter said. "I bet he's playing baseball. I bet he's seeing the horses there."

Religious family abandons US, gets lost at sea

PHOENIX (AP)—A northern Arizona family that was lost at sea for weeks in an ill-fated attempt to leave the U.S. over what they consider government interference in religion will fly back home Sunday.

Hannah Gastonguay, 26, said Saturday that she and her husband "decided to take a leap of faith and see where God led us" when they took their two small children and her father-in-law and set sail from San Diego for the tiny island nation of Kiribati in May.

But just weeks into their journey, the Gastonguays hit a series of storms that damaged their small boat, leaving them adrift for weeks, unable to make progress. They were eventually picked up by a Venezuelan fishing vessel, transferred to a Japanese cargo ship and taken to Chile where they are resting in a hotel in the port city of San Antonio.

Their flights home were arranged by U.S. Embassy officials, Gastonguay said. The U.S. State Department was not immediately available for comment.

The months-long journey has been "pretty exciting" and "little scary at certain points," Gastonguay told The Associated Press by telephone.

She said they wanted to go to Kiribati because "we didn't want to go anywhere big." She said they understood the island to be "one of the least developed countries in the world."

Kiribati is a group of islands just off the equator and the international date line about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. The total population is just over 100,000 people of primarily Micronesian descent.

Hannah Gastonguay said her family was fed up with government control in the U.S. As Christians they don't believe in "abortion, homosexuality, in the state-controlled church," she said.

Asia

PH offensive on rebel group kills 2

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military launched an offensive Saturday against a breakaway Muslim rebel group that opposes a peace deal and has claimed responsibility for a recent bomb attack that wounded seven soldiers in the country's volatile south.

At least two rebels were killed and two soldiers were wounded during "intense fighting" early Saturday between soldiers and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement in North Cotabato province's Aleosan township, said Col. Dickson Hermoso of the army's 6th Infantry Division.

The army pounded the rebels with mortar and cannon fire to prevent them from advancing and taking control of a key highway, he said.

The rebel group set off a roadside bomb Wednesday in nearby Maguindanao province, wounding seven soldiers, and warned of more attacks. It broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has signed a preliminary peace accord with the government.

The military said another roadside bomb believed to have been planted by the group exploded early Saturday in another town in Maguindanao. There were no casualties. A second homemade bomb was found and safely detonated in the same area.

Provincial Gov. Emmylou Mendoza said about 2,000 people fled their homes to avoid being caught in the fighting.

A similar offensive was launched earlier against the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf in Basilan province farther south to stop the militants from manufacturing bombs for attacks in other southern cities. At least one soldier and an estimated seven militants were killed in the fighting in Basilan on Thursday.

Local army commander Col. Carlito Galvez said the offensive was meant to prevent the group from making more bombs for attacks after Eid al-Fitr, the three-day festivities celebrating the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan that began Thursday.

Abu Sayyaf is notorious for bomb attacks, ransom kidnappings and beheading hostages. It is on the U.S. and European lists of terror organizations.

Several bomb attacks over the past two weeks in the southern Philippines have killed 16 people and wounded about 100 others.

6 killed by hot lava as Indon volcano erupts

MAUMERE, Indonesia (AP)—Hot lava from an erupting volcano killed six people sleeping in a beach village on a small island in eastern Indonesia on Saturday, after ash and smoke from the volcano shot about a mile into the air, officials said.

Mount Rokatenda in East Nusa Tenggara province erupted early Saturday morning, and nearly 3,000 people have been evacuated from the area on Palue island, according to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency. The volcano has been rumbling since last October.

The victims who died included three adults and two children, said agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, adding that the age of the sixth person killed was unclear. He said that the adults' bodies were recovered from Ponge beach in Rokirole village, but that the children's remains had not been found.

Video footage on Indonesia's TVOne showed giant plumes of white and gray smoke and ash belching from the volcano into a sunny blue sky. Prior to Saturday's eruption, many residents had already been moved to safer areas.

The disaster agency said the volcano spewed ash and smoke about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) into the air.

The eruption lasted about seven minutes, said Frans Wangge, who heads the volcano's monitoring post. He said the hot lava burned trees around the beach and villages, and made it difficult to reach the area where the victims were killed.

Domi Dange, a Catholic priest helping those who fled to the district town of Maumere on nearby Flores island, said some residents, who had refused to leave when the area was earlier cleared, were sleeping under tents near the beach. However, details about the six people who were killed and where they were located at the time of the eruption remained unclear.

Local authorities, including police and army officials along with members of a search and rescue agency, were heading to tiny Palue island to help with evacuations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon threatens Philippines, strands thousands

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say more than 3,000 passengers have been stranded on piers in the northeast of the Philippines as ferry services were suspended due to an approaching typhoon, the strongest to threaten the country this year. Government forecasters told reporters Sunday that Typhoon Utor, with winds of 150 kilometers per hour (93 miles per hour) and gusts up to 185 kph (115 mph), could gather strength over the Philippine Sea before it slams into northeastern Aurora province Monday. Forecaster Jori Loiz says typhoon alerts have been issued in several northern provinces, including in the capital, Manila, warning residents to brace for possible floods and landslides. Utor is the 12th of about 20 storms and typhoons expected to lash the Philippines this year.

Chinese state media: 4 citizens killed in Kabul

BEIJING (AP)—Four Chinese citizens have been killed following an attack in an apartment building in the Afghan capital, Kabul, according to Chinese state media reports. Two women and one man were killed in the building on Thursday and two other Chinese men were missing, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Saturday. Citing the Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan, Xinhua said one of the missing men had been found alive and taken to a safe place. State broadcaster China Central Television reported that the body of the second man had been found.

India activates atomic reactor for nuclear sub

NEW DELHI (AP)—India on Saturday activated the atomic reactor onboard its first indigenously designed and built nuclear submarine, paving the way for its deployment by the navy in the next two years. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the development represented a giant stride in the progress of India's indigenous technological capabilities. The vessel is the first ballistic missile submarine to be built outside the five recognized nuclear powers—the United States, France, Russia, Britain and China. Rahul Bedi, an analyst for the independent Jane's Information Group, said the submarine would now undergo sea trials.

New Hindu-Muslim clashes erupt in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Fresh clashes erupted Saturday between groups of Hindus and Muslims in the Indian portion of Kashmir, wounding three people, police said. The rival groups also burned some homes in Paddar, a village about 50 kilometers (40 miles) north of the town of Kishtwar, where clashes between Muslims and Hindus during Muslim holiday celebrations Friday killed at least two people and injured 24. Police rushed to Paddar on Saturday to control the situation, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. Three people who sustained gunshot wounds were evacuated by helicopter to a nearby hospital, the officer said.

World

Wave of bombings in Iraq kills 69

BAGHDAD (AP)—A wave of car bombings targeting those celebrating the end of Ramadan across Iraq killed 69 people Saturday, a bloody reminder of the inability of Iraqi authorities to stop violence threatening to spiral out of control.

AP

Black smoke from a car bomb attack is seen in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013.

Violence has been on the rise across Iraq since a deadly crackdown by government forces on a Sunni protest camp in April, and attacks against civilians and security forces notably spiked during Ramadan. The surge of attacks has sparked fears that the country could see a new round of widespread sectarian bloodshed similar to that which brought the country to the edge of civil war in 2006 and 2007.

The bloodshed also comes after Iraqi security forces promised to step up efforts to increase security to protect the public during the Eid al-Fitr celebrations that mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. This year's Ramadan was the most violence since 2007, with 671 people killed.

"My shop's windows were smashed and smoke filled the whole area," said shoe shop owner Saif Mousa, who survived an attack near his store in New Baghdad. "I went outside of the shop and I could hardly see because of the smoke. ... At the end, we had a terrible day that was supposed to be nice because of Eid."

Many of the attacks occurred within an hour of each other, suggesting a level of coordination in the assaults. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, though security forces and civilians are frequently targeted by al-Qaida's Iraq branch.

U.S. Department of State spokeswoman Jen Psaki condemned the attacks, saying in a statement that they are similar to suicide and vehicle bomb attacks in the country in the past month-and-a-half conducted by al-Qaida's Iraq branch.

The group is led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and al-Baghdadi has taken personal credit for a series of terrorist attacks in Iraq since 2011, including an attack against the Abu Ghraib prison, Psaki said.

The U.S. has offered a $10 million reward for information leading to his capture or death and the reward is second only to information leading to Ayman al-Zawahiri, the chief of the Al Qaeda network.

"The terrorists who committed these acts are enemies of Islam and a shared enemy of the United States, Iraq, and the international community," the statement said.

Police said the deadliest of Saturday's attacks took place when a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a residential area in the town of Tuz Khormato, killing eight people and wounding dozens, Mayor Shalal Abdool said. The town is about 200 kilometers (130 miles) north of the Iraqi capital.

Police said a car bomb exploded near an outdoor market in the Baghdad's southeastern suburbs of Jisr Diyala shortly before sunset, killing seven people and wounding 20.

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspected US drone strike kills 2 in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone strike killed two alleged al-Qaida militants in southern Yemen on Saturday, military officials said, making it the ninth such strike in just two weeks. The strike in Lahj province wounded two other militants, one of them seriously, the officials said. The four had been traveling in a car in the area of el-Askariya. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said it was the first time a U.S. drone fired on this area of Lahj. In total, there have been nine suspected U.S. drone strikes in Yemen since July 27. The drone attacks in that two-week period have killed a total of 38 suspected militants in Yemen, which is the Arab world's most impoverished country.

Detained migrants in Greece attack guards

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A protest by migrants detained at a facility northeast of Athens because they entered the country illegally has ended and the detainees have returned to their rooms, police said Sunday. Officers on motorbikes continued to comb the surrounding area for escapees but there were no signs of a breach at the detention center itself, according to a police announcement. There are about 1,700 migrants at the facility. The protest started when some detainees attacked guards at nightfall Saturday as dinner was being served. According to police, the attack on the guards was unprovoked. The detainees also set fire to their bedding and some of the containers that housed them. Police said at least 10 prison guards were injured, none of them seriously. It was not clear if any detainees were injured.

Bahrain deports US teacher over 'radical' writings

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Bahrain deported a U.S. citizen working as a teacher in the gulf kingdom over what it described Saturday as her "radical" writings on Twitter and websites as the government cracks down on dissent the country. Erin Kilbride, of Portland, Maine, left the kingdom and was to arrive back in the U.S. later Saturday, officials at the Bahrain Center for Human Rights said. In a statement Saturday, Bahrain's Ministry of State for Communications said it had received complaints about Kilbride. The ministry said an investigation found that Kilbride worked "illegally as an unaccredited journalist" in violation of her visa.

Israeli PM Netanyahu undergoes hernia surgery

JERUSALEM (AP)—The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says that he has successfully undergone hernia surgery. Netanyahu's office said early Sunday he is recuperating at a Jerusalem hospital following overnight surgery for an umbilical hernia. A medical team diagnosed the hernia after Netanyahu felt pain on Saturday. The Prime Minister was given general anesthesia, and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon was appointed acting Prime Minister during the few hours Netanyahu was unconscious. Netanyahu will be released later Sunday to recuperate further at home. The weekly Cabinet meeting has been postponed. The prime minister's office says Defense Minister Yaalon is leading a ministerial meeting on prisoners' affairs in Netanyahu's place.

Health & Fitness

You want to live to 120? Most people say no thanks

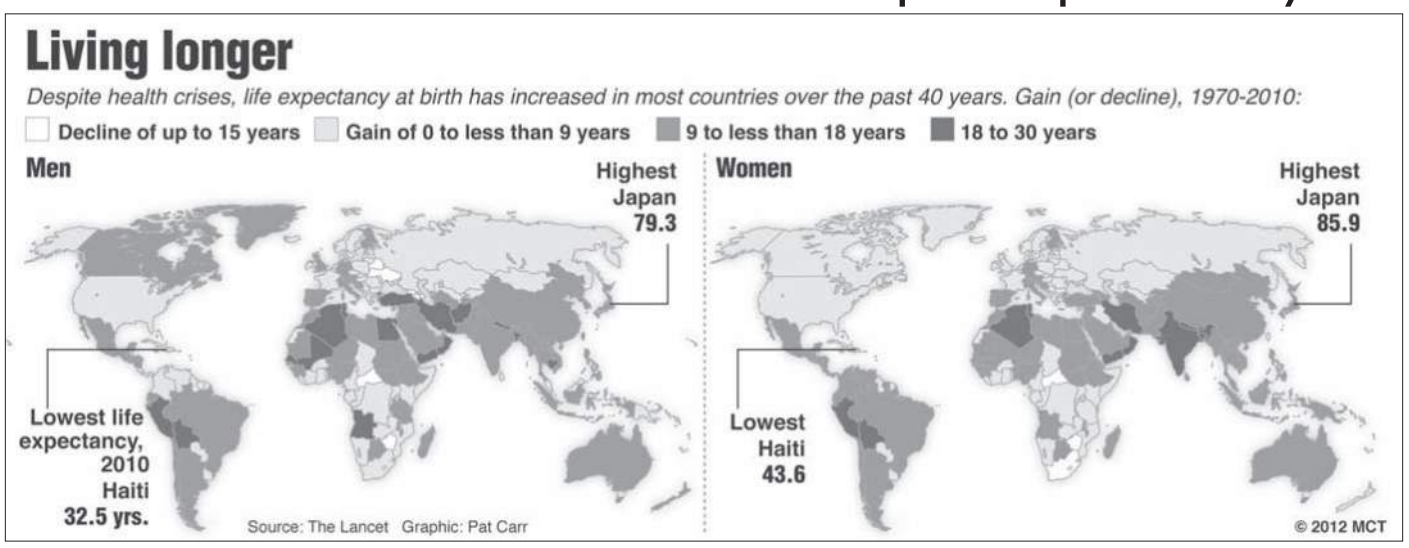
WASHINGTON (AP)—Ninety birthdays maybe, but not 120: Americans hope to stretch out life expectancy another decade or so, but they're ambivalent, even skeptical, about a fountain of youth.

A new poll by the Pew Research Center explores attitudes about a scientific quest: Creating treatments that one day might slow the aging process and let people live decades longer than is normal today.

Scientists already can extend the life span of certain laboratory animals—mice, worms, flies—with various techniques. They've also tried with monkeys, although the evidence in that species is mixed.

There's no way to know if there ever will be some type of Methuselah pill for humans.

But with the field growing, Pew took the public's pulse and found most Americans wouldn't want a treatment that would let them live to 120. Fifty-six percent said no thanks—although two-thirds expect most other people would want to try such a step, said the report issued Tuesday.



Few expect such a radical idea to become reality, at least by 2050, although most of those surveyed expect other medical advances that could more gradually extend life expectancy, such as better cancer care.

When asked about living to 120 or beyond, the survey found 51 percent of people said that would be bad for society. They worried about a strain on natural resources, and that such treatments probably would be available only to the rich rather than to everyone.

What is the ideal life span? To most Americans, it's between 79 and 100; the median answer was 90 years, Pew reported.

In the U.S., a child born today can expect to live 78.7 years. Women's life expectancy is longer, 81 years, than men's, 76.2.

With a rapidly graying population that is bringing concern about the growth of Alzheimer's disease and an overburdened Medicare system, caution about the idea of one day living even longer may not be surprising.

But longevity pioneer Cynthia Kenyon of the University of California, San Francisco, wonders if the public understands the real goal of such research, which is better health.

Many of the experimental animals whose lives have been extended look and act far younger—and are far healthier—than their untreated counterparts of the same age, she said.

"It would be the equivalent of a 90-year-old person that you think is looking like a 45-year-old," Kenyon told The Associated Press.

Because aging itself underlies the development of many chronic diseases as our bodies break down, the theory is that slowing the aging process might help keep people healthier for longer—even if it's never as dramatic as what has happened with animals.

"We are very interested in not only life extension, but extension of the health span," said Dr. Marie A. Bernard, deputy director of the National Institute on Aging, which pays for much of this research.

Research into life extension began with the discovery that severely restricting calories in lab animals—they regularly consume 25 percent to 30 percent less than normal—makes them live longer. Remarkably, they also were healthier than their litter mates.

Dogs help sniff out ovarian cancer in Pa. study

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Researchers trying to develop a diagnostic tool for ovarian cancer are hoping dogs' keen sense of smell will lead them down the right path.

An early detection device that combines old-fashioned olfactory skills, chemical analysis and modern technology could lead to better survival rates for the disease, which is particularly deadly because it's often not caught until an advanced stage.

Using blood and tissue samples donated by patients, the University of Pennsylvania's Working Dog Center has started training three canines to sniff out the signature compound that indicates the presence of ovarian cancer.

If the animals can isolate the chemical marker, scientists at the nearby Monell Chemical Senses Center will work to create an electronic sensor to identify the same odorant.

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013 photo, Jonathan Ball rewards Tsunami with play in the first round of training for a study that will eventually involve detecting cancerous tissue at Penn Vet Working Dog Center in Philadelphia.

"Because if the dogs can do it, then the question is, Can our analytical instrumentation do it? We think we can," Monell organic chemist George Preti said.

More than 20,000 Americans are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year. When it's caught early, women have a five-year survival rate of 90 percent. But because of its generic symptoms—weight gain, bloating or constipation—the disease is more often caught late.

About 70 percent of cases are identified after the cancer has spread, said Dr. Janos Tanyi, a Penn oncologist whose patients are participating in the study. For those women, the five-year survival rate is less than 40 percent, he said.

The Philadelphia researchers will build on previous work showing that early stage ovarian cancer alters odorous compounds in the body. Another study in Britain in 2004 demonstrated that dogs could identify bladder cancer patients by smelling their urine.

CDC: First national sign of childhood obesity drop

ATLANTA (AP)—For many years, doctors have been wringing their hands as more and more U.S. children grew fat. Now, that may be changing, with the first evidence of a national decline in childhood obesity.

In 18 states, there were at least slight drops in obesity for low-income preschoolers, health officials said Tuesday.

After decades on the rise, childhood obesity rates recently have essentially been flat. A few places—Philadelphia, New York City and Mississippi—reported improvements in the last couple of years. But the report from the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention shows signs of wider-ranging progress.

"Now, for the first time, we're seeing a significant decrease in childhood obesity" nationally, said Dr. Thomas Frieden, CDC director.

But rates are still too high, he added. One in 8 preschoolers is obese in the United States, and it's even more common in black and Hispanic kids.

"It's not like we're out of the woods," he said during a conference call with reporters Tuesday.

Obesity continues to be one of the nation's leading public health problems—health officials call it a longstanding epidemic. A third of U.S. children and teens and more than two-thirds of adults are obese or overweight.

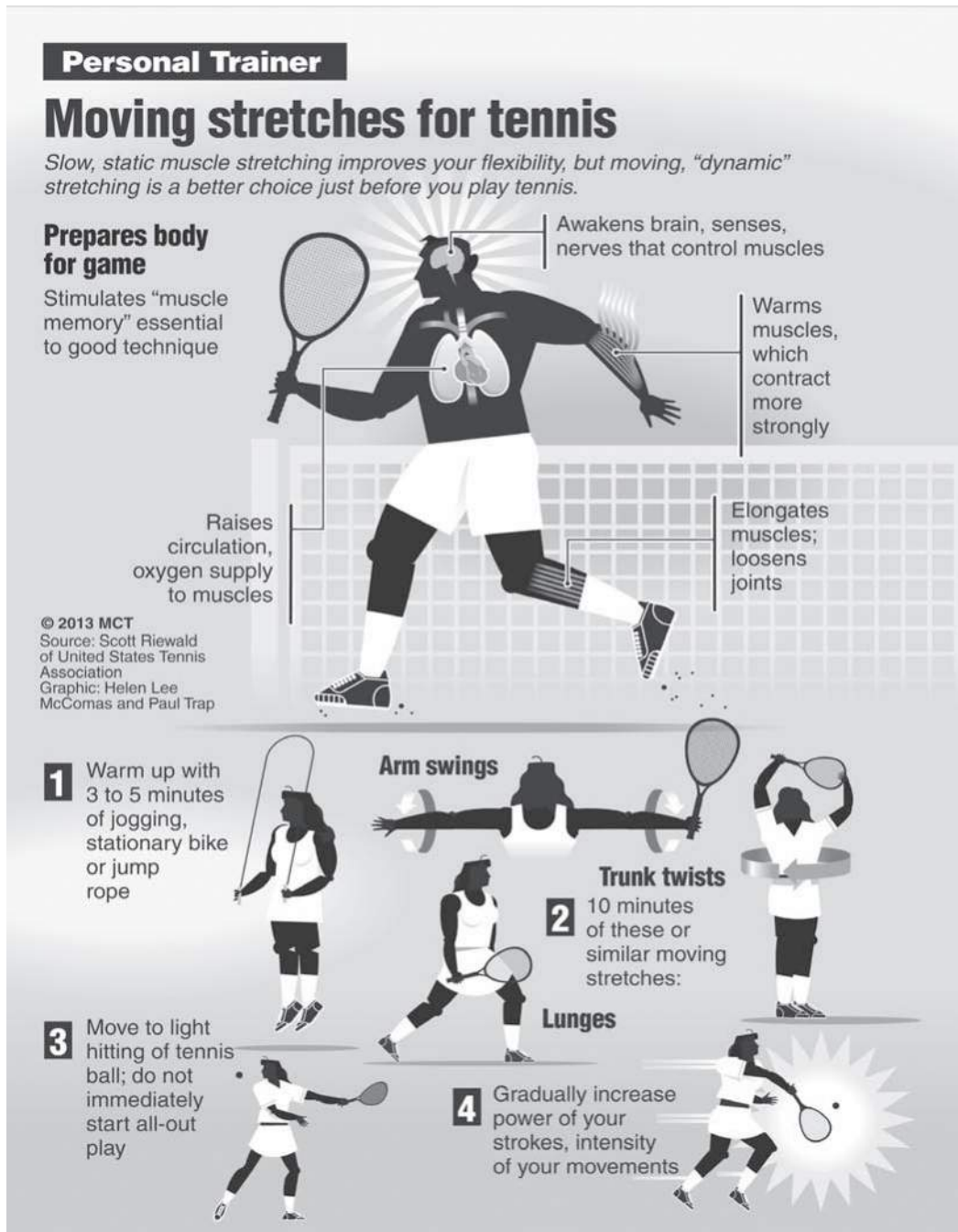
Some hope the report marks a turning point.

"I really do think this is a pivotal moment," said Sam Kass, executive director of a White House initiative to reduce childhood obesity.

Preschoolers who are overweight or obese are five times more likely than other children to be heavy as adults, which means greater risks of high cholesterol, high blood sugar, asthma and even mental health problems.

Tuesday's study used height and weight measurements from nearly 12 million low-income children in 40 states. The data was collected from 2008 through 2011.

Most of the children ages 2 to 4 were enrolled in the federal Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, which provides food vouchers and other services.


Personal Trainer
Moving stretches for tennis
Slow, static muscle stretching improves your flexibility, but moving, "dynamic" stretching is a better choice just before you play tennis.
Prepares body for game
Stimulates "muscle memory" essential to good technique
Awakens brain, senses, nerves that control muscles
Warms muscles, which contract more strongly
Elongates muscles; loosens joints
Raises circulation, oxygen supply to muscles
© 2013 MCT
Source: Scott Riewald of United States Tennis Association
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas and Paul Trap
1 Warm up with 3 to 5 minutes of jogging, stationary bike or jump rope
Arm swings
Trunk twists
2 10 minutes of these or similar moving stretches:
Lunges
3 Move to light hitting of tennis ball; do not immediately start all-out play
4 Gradually increase power of your strokes, intensity of your movements

Life & Style

Swiss apologize for encounter Oprah calls racist

GENEVA (AP)—Switzerland is a glamorous playground of the rich and famous, filled with glitterati from princes to movie stars. It's also a land with a sometimes uneasy relationship with foreigners—especially when they aren't white.

Billionaire media mogul Oprah Winfrey says she ran into Swiss racism when a clerk at Trois Pommes, a pricey Zurich boutique, refused to show her a $38,000 handbag, telling one of the world's richest women that she wouldn't be able to afford it. Winfrey earned $77 million in the year ending in June, according to Forbes magazine.

"She said: 'No, no, no, you don't want to see that one. You want to see this one. Because that one will cost too much; you will not be able to afford that,'" Winfrey, appearing on the U.S. television program "Entertainment Tonight," quoted the clerk as saying. "And I said, 'Well, I did really want to see that one.' And she refused to get it."

She brought up the incident during an interview about her new movie, "Lee Daniels' The Butler," which opens next week and focuses on civil rights and race relations in the U.S. She was asked to open up about her own experiences with discrimination.

Swiss tourism officials and the boutique owner were quick to offer apologies Friday.

"We are very sorry for what happened to her, of course, because we think all of our guests and clients should be treated respectfully, in a professional way," Daniela Baer, a spokeswoman for the Swiss tourism office, told The Associated Press.

The tourism office also posted an apology on Twitter, saying, "This person acted terribly wrong."

The newspaper Blick described the bag as a crocodile-leather Tom Ford design named for actress Jennifer Aniston, a fan of the American designer. It quoted Goetz as saying the bag was priced at 35,000 Swiss francs.

Boutique owner Trudie Goetz told Swiss public broadcaster SRF that she believed the incident was a misunderstanding when the store clerk, who is mainly an Italian speaker, explained how expensive the bag was.

"I'm very sorry about this incident," Goetz said. "And this can only happen because of a communication problem and a misunderstanding.

AP

This July 31, 2013 file photo shows media mogul and actress Oprah Winfrey at a special screening of "Lee Daniels' The Butler" New York.

Jolie, Marvel superheroes bewitch Disney expo

AP

This publicity photo released by Walt Disney Studios and Marvel shows Natalie Portman, left, as Jane Foster and Chris Hemsworth as Thor, in Marvel's "Thor: The Dark World."

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Angelina Jolie cast a spell on the crowd at the D23 Expo.

The star of the upcoming film "Maleficent" appeared on stage at the Disney extravaganza for a Saturday presentation promoting the company's upcoming assortment of live-action films.

"Since I was a little girl, Maleficent was always my favorite," Jolie told the crowd of 4,000 fans about her role as a real-life rendition of the "Sleeping Beauty" villainess. "I was terrified of her, but I was so drawn to her. I wanted to know more about her."

Jolie said her daughter, Vivienne, who turned 5 years old last month, was cast in the film as a young version of Princess Aurora, mostly because she was the only child who wasn't afraid of Jolie in her horned attire on the set.

"One little kid even said, 'Mommy, please tell the mean witch to stop talking to me,'" said Jolie.

Other stars that appeared at California's Anaheim Convention Center included a few allies of "Marvel's The Avengers."

Tom Hiddleston, Natalie Portman and Anthony Hopkins from "Thor: The Dark World" and Chris Evans, Sebastian Stan and Anthony Mackie from "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" were on hand to tout their upcoming sequels.

Hiddleston apologized for not wearing his Loki costume, which he donned earlier this summer at Comic-Con International in San Diego.

"I'm not gonna get this crowd to kneel," he said. "We're at Disneyland."

Later, when the "Captain America" crew came on stage, Evans comically invited the audience to join him at the theme park across the street.

"Anyone wanna go?" the "Captain America" star joked. "Let's go!"

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige screened footage from both sequels, including two never-before-seen clips, and teasers for both "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" and "Guardians of the Galaxy."

The clip for "The Dark World" showed Portman's human character Jane being examined on Thor's home realm of Asgard, while the rough "Winter Soldier" footage showcased a stealth assault on a naval ship by Cap with plenty of boomeranging shield action.

Other films previewed Saturday included the globe-trotting Muppets sequel "Muppets Most Wanted," fairytale musical "Into the Woods," live-action retelling of "Cinderella" and the mysterious "Tomorrowland," which stars George Clooney and is inspired by contents from a box found in the Disney archives.

"Tomorrowland" filmmakers Brad Bird and Damon Lindelof showed off some items from the box on stage.

"They want us to pull Clooney out of the box," said Lindelof. "It's not gonna happen, guys."

Court grants conservatorship over actress Bynes

OXNARD, California (AP)—A judge granted the mother of Amanda Bynes a temporary conservatorship on Friday to make decisions about her daughter's treatment in case the former child actress is released from a facility where she is being treated for mental health issues.

The decision by Ventura County Superior Court Judge Glen M. Reiser came more than two weeks after Bynes, 27, was involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital after months of erratic behavior.

The ruling permits Lynn Bynes to control decisions involving the health and finances of her daughter. It will be in effect until Sept. 30.

A psychiatric hold on Bynes has been extended for 30 days but could be ended any time.

The actress did not appear in court. Her court-appointed attorney said Bynes did not feel that a conservatorship was necessary.

Reiser said his ruling was based on a doctor's evaluation and an investigator's interview of Bynes. The judge said ruled the actress had a "lack of capacity to give informed consent to medical care."

Her parents Richard and Lynn Bynes sat calmly in court and spoke only to acknowledge that they understood the ruling.

They sought the conservatorship on July 27, days after authorities involuntarily committed their daughter after she started a fire in the driveway of a home in her hometown of Thousand Oaks.

The petition states that their daughter had become increasingly paranoid in recent months and expressed fears she was being watched by smoke detectors and devices in the dashboard of her car.

"We are deeply concerned that Amanda poses a substantial risk to herself, to others, and to property based on recent events in her life," the filing stated.

In May, Bynes was arrested for allegedly throwing a marijuana bong from a window of her 36th-floor Manhattan apartment. Police had come to the building to investigate a complaint that she had been smoking marijuana in the lobby.

Last year, Bynes was charged in Los Angeles with driving on a suspended license. The license had been suspended after she was charged with driving under the influence and misdemeanor hit-and-run.

Randy Jackson testifies about drug concerns

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury heard videotaped testimony Friday from Randy Jackson, who described more than half a dozen interventions his family attempted to try to get Michael Jackson to stop taking prescription medications.

Jackson

Randy Jackson, the pop superstar's younger brother, said several of his siblings were involved in the efforts, and they occasionally brought interventionist doctors to try to convince their brother to go into rehab. The superstar always refused and kept his family at a distance in the final years of his life, Randy Jackson said.

His videotaped testimony was played for jurors by lawyers for AEG Live LLC, which is being sued by Jackson's mother. She claims the company negligently hired the doctor convicted of giving the "Thriller" singer a lethal overdose of an anesthetic in June 2009.

AEG denies it hired the physician, Conrad Murray, and its attorneys have said Jackson made choices that led to his death. Their case has already featured testimony from several medical professionals who treated the singer, including one who gave him an implant to block the effects of opiate drugs.

Randy Jackson says the interventions took place in various locations including New York, Las Vegas, Jackson's Neverland Ranch and Taiwan and dated back to the mid-1990s.

He said almost every time he tried to intercede it was after a call from a nanny who cared for Michael Jackson's children and told him the singer was over using prescription drugs. He said he never saw his brother take drugs but twice saw him in a condition where he was slurring his speech. He said he later fired the nanny after he encountered her at a pharmacy picking up prescriptions for the singer.

Randy Jackson said he never heard of the drug propofol until after his brother died from an overdose of the anesthetic.

However, he said he did not talk to his brother much in the five years before his death and was unable to get into his rented mansion during the period before he died because security guards blocked his access.

"Michael didn't want to be around the family too much because he didn't want them to see him like that," Randy Jackson said. "He was hiding from me."

He said most of the interventions were attended by his sisters Rebbie and Janet and his brothers, Tito, Marlon, and his father, Joe Jackson. But he said his mother only came along once or twice. He said she was unwilling to accept that Michael was addicted and he felt "she was in denial. She just didn't want to believe."

Rep: Chris Brown suffers seizure because of stress

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Grammy-winner Chris Brown has suffered a seizure brought on by intense fatigue and extreme emotional stress, his publicist said Saturday.

The "Look At Me Now" singer suffered a non-epileptic seizure early Friday morning while he was working in a Los Angeles studio, Nicole Perna said via email.

Perna said Brown's doctor attributes the episode to "intense fatigue and extreme emotional stress, both due to the continued onslaught of unfounded legal matters and the nonstop negativity."

The doctor examined the 24-year-old but he wasn't hospitalized.

The singer has been on felony probation since the 2009 beating of then-girlfriend Rihanna.

Brown has been in and out of court since the Rihanna assault, making reports on fulfilling the requirements of his five-year supervised probation term.

AP

R&B singer Chris Brown appears during a court hearing at Los Angeles Superior court in Los Angeles Monday, July 15, 2013.

A judge revoked his probation last month and ordered a hearing in a May 12 hit-and-run case, in which he is suspected of rear-ending a car stopped at a red light in the San Fernando Valley.

Brown allegedly refused to give the other driver his license or insurance information. The driver of the other car said Brown was polite at first, but a confrontation arose after she kept demanding identification.

The woman said she took a picture of Brown and a passenger, "and then they went ballistic," shouting expletives and grabbing at her camera before speeding off.

The woman said she didn't know who Brown was until a friend called and told her about an online report of the incident.

In February, the Sheriff's Department investigated a fight between Brown and singer Frank Ocean at a recording studio, but Ocean declined to pursue a battery case against Brown. The same month, Brown crashed his Porsche while being chased by paparazzi.

Brown won a Grammy in 2011 for Best R&B Album with "F.A.M.E."

Court declines to hear lawsuit against Tim McGraw

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A federal court has declined to hear Curb Records' lawsuit against Tim McGraw and Big Machine Records, another setback in the label's legal fight with the country star.

A U.S. District Court judge in Nashville, Tenn., signed an order administratively closing the case until a decision over copyright of music McGraw recorded is made in a lawsuit filed in Tennessee state court.

Curb initially filed a lawsuit over copyright and breach of contract issues and tried to bar McGraw from signing with Big Machine Records.

McGraw has countersued, and a judge allowed him to make new music with a different label for the first time in his more than 20 years as a recording artist.

He released that album, "Two Lanes of Freedom," earlier this year.

Usher to keep custody of his 2 young sons

AP

R&B singer Usher, left, embraces ex-wife Tameka Foster Raymond, after a judge dismissed an emergency request by Raymond seeking temporary custody of their two children, Friday, Aug. 9, 2013, in Atlanta.

ATLANTA (AP)—R&B singer Usher will hold on to primary custody of his two young sons.

A judge in Atlanta on Friday dismissed an emergency request by Usher's ex-wife seeking temporary custody of their two children.

Tameka Foster Raymond requested the hearing a day after the former couple's 5-year-old son got caught in a pool drain while in the care of the multi-Grammy winner's aunt at Usher's Atlanta home. Fulton County Superior Judge John Goger dismissed her request for decision-making authority after hearing from both sides in court.

After the judge issued his ruling, Usher approached his ex-wife, who broke down while testifying, and gave her a long hug.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, Goger said he wasn't certain anyone really could have done anything to prevent the accident. But he also advised the 34-year-old Usher to keep his ex-wife well advised of his whereabouts and who's taking care of the children.

Usher Raymond V fell to the bottom of the pool and became stuck in the drain on Monday, according to an Atlanta police report. A housekeeper tried unsuccessfully to free him. A contractor doing work at the home pulled the boy from the pool and performed CPR.

The boy was "conscious, alert and breathing" when emergency medical workers arrived, police said. The boy was still in the hospital Friday.

"They're just assessing him," Raymond told reporters outside the courthouse after the hearing. "There is a lot we don't know. I mean you can't—it's only been a few days so we're very thankful that he's obviously alive but we still have to observe him and make sure that everything is OK."

Usher, who has recorded multi-platinum R&B albums "My Way" and "8701," left the courthouse in downtown Atlanta without speaking to reporters. He also has several chart-toppers including "Nice & Slow," "U Remind Me" and "Love in This Club."

The filing had said the boy "suffered a near-death accident" while left unsupervised at Usher's home when the singer was out of town.

Contrary to what Raymond claimed, Usher's aunt, Rena Oden, was poolside watching the children when the older child became stuck in the drain, and Usher was at a music studio one highway exit away, said the singer's lawyer John Mayoue.

Jimmy Fallon: We had baby via surrogate

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. television comic Jimmy Fallon says he and his wife had their baby daughter with the help of a surrogate.

Winnie Rose Fallon, the daughter of the NBC late-night comic and his wife, Nancy Juvonen, was born July 23. Fallon said in a portion of a "Today" show interview broadcast Friday that the couple had been trying for a while to have a child before succeeding with the help of a surrogate.

The couple kept it all a secret until Winnie was born.

NBC said a more extensive portion of Savannah Guthrie's interview with the incoming "The Tonight Show" host will be broadcast next week.

AP

This May 7, 2012 file photo shows Jimmy Fallon and his wife Nancy Juvonen, left, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit, celebrating Elsa Schiaparelli and Miuccia Prada in New York.

Embracing same-sex marriage may take families some time

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Thanks to a change in state law, my partner and I can finally marry. We're now struggling with whether to invite our parents and families to our wedding. While they have been respectful of us together and seemed to love my partner, it has become increasingly obvious that they don't want to really talk about our lives. Specifically, our new right to marry.

No one has said a word to us about the marriage law, even though it dominated the news for months before being passed in May. After prompting, they said they support our having the same rights, but have a problem calling us married.

We are going to be married and have decided to invite only those who sincerely support us to share our special day. Because I'm so hurt by their silence on this, how do I tactfully let them know they aren't invited to the wedding without severing all ties? I'm sure we aren't the only couple facing this new issue.

NEWLY EQUAL IN MINNESOTA

DEAR NEWLY EQUAL: Invite your family to the wedding. Because they love you and have accepted your partner, they may wish to attend. Remember, the concept of marriage equality is a very new one and not everyone adapts quickly to change. Regardless of whether they have a problem calling you married, the fact is you will be married according to the laws of your state. And that's what is important.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I started dating a wonderful man two years ago. We will be getting married in a few weeks and own a house together. He has been a wonderful father to my two children. He loves them very much and the feeling is mutual.

From the start, he knew I wanted to have a child with him, and he said he wanted the same. Last spring I became pregnant by accident, but sadly, had a miscarriage a few months later. When I told him I was pregnant, he was not excited and made comments that caused me stress. After the miscarriage, he acted like nothing had happened, which hurt me deeply because I really wanted that baby.

Now he says he doesn't want a baby anymore—that he has changed his mind without even considering that I still want one. I'm so lost. Please give me some advice.

BABY MAYBE? IN PUERTO RICO

DEAR BABY MAYBE?: You and your fiance appear to have a communication problem. Now that you know he has changed his mind about wanting a child with you, you have a right to know why. Discussing this with the counsel of a neutral mediator would be helpful before your trip to the altar.

Because the agreement between you was that you would be enlarging your family, you may need to rethink whether you want to go through with the wedding. If that's the case, you may also need the help of an attorney to separate from him financially because you own property together.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: In late January, my sister left a $20 bill at the front desk of my hairdresser's salon and told the receptionist to give it to me when I came in and tell me it was my Christmas present. When I objected to the impersonal manner of the "gift," my sister got mad and told me I was being "ridiculous." We haven't spoken since. Was I wrong to object?

MAD IN MAINE

DEAR MAD: Obviously, you and your sister aren't close. If she didn't even bother to enclose the money with a card or note, I don't blame you for being miffed, particularly if you customarily exchange gifts.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

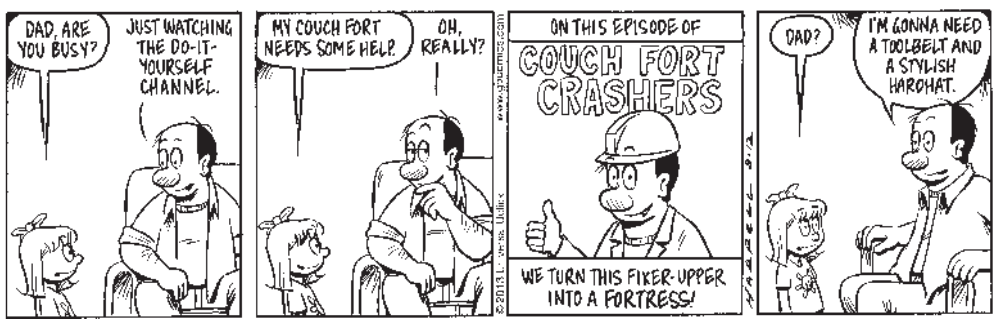
GOOD! SUSIE'S STILL PLAYING ON THE SIDEWALK! WE'LL STROLL BY AND "ACCIDENTALLY" DROP THE CODED MESSAGE.
YES HOBBES, I HAVE A TOP SECRET, CODED LETTER FOR YOU HERE! VERRRRY MYSTERIOUS! VERRRRY SECRET!
JUST MAKE SURE THE NOTE DOESN'T FALL INTO A GIRL'S HANDS! IF THE CODE IS BROKEN AND READ, OUR PLANS WILL BE RUINED!
WE DID IT! HA! EVERYTHING IS GOING PERFECTLY!
...EXCEPT SHE'S NOT PICKING UP THE LETTER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, ARE YOU BUSY?
JUST WATCHING THE DO-IT-YOURSELF CHANNEL.
MY COUCH FORT NEEDS SOME HELP.
OH, REALLY?
ON THIS EPISODE OF
COUCH FORT CRASHERS
WE TURN THIS FIXER-UPPER INTO A FORTRESS!
DAD?
I'M GONNA NEED A TOOLBELT AND A STYLISH HAROHAT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WOULD YOU BELIEVE I'M THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST CEO OF A FORTUNE 500 COMPANY?
THEN WHY ARE YOU WEARING A NAME BADGE THAT SAYS "TRAINEE"?
WOULD YOU BELIEVE I WORK ON A TRAIN?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

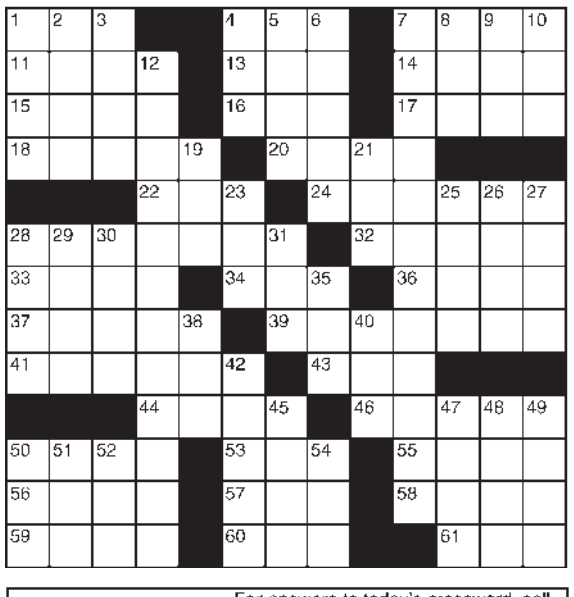
ACROSS
1 Airwaves watchdog org.
4 Pile of poker chips
7 Door-frame part
11 Bread unit
13 Rhyming tribute
14 Concept
15 Actress Paquin
16 Plague
17 Graduation garment
18 Mournful chime
20 What sunbathers "catch"
22 Meadow
24 Sailor
28 "The — Falcon"
32 Cussed
33 Sandwich cookie
34 Pub vessel
36 Cougar
37 Painting of a scene
39 See 23-Down
41 Horror movie reaction
43 Light (Sp.)
44 Ticklish Muppet
46 Victim of Cortes
50 Body powder
53 "Eureka!"
55 Volcanic spillage
56 Great Lake
57 18-wheeler
58 Former partners
59 Gospels' follow-up
60 Pedicure site
61 Rage

DOWN
1 Anti-aircraft fire
2 Mass. neighbor
3 Candy —
4 Burst
5 Smell
6 Second-largest state
7 Pleceful pastime?
8 Commotion
9 Kitten's comment
10 Prohibit
12 Collapse
19 Shelter
21 "Of course"
23 Solicit, perhaps
25 Grimace
26 Weaponry
27 Spruced up
28 Rolling stone's lack
29 Mischievous
30 Mad king of theater
31 End for auction or profit
35 Solidify
38 Wet wriggler
40 Sine — non
42 Competitor of Target
45 Midwestern state
47 Cab
48 Always
49 Docket entry
50 Afternoon party
51 Joan of —
52 Illuminated
54 Time of your life?

Solution time: 27 mins.

D	I	S	C	S	■	A	D	E	■	B	I	T
I	O	W	A	N	■	B	O	T	■	A	D	O
G	U	A	V	A	■	S	W	A	G	B	E	D
■	■	P	A	R	T	O	N	■	L	E	A	D
P	O	P	■	E	R	A	■	T	A	L	L	Y
O	W	E	D	■	A	B	N	E	R	■	■	■
I	N	D	E	E	D	■	O	D	E	S	S	A
■	■	■	I	H	E	A	T	■	S	W	I	M
A	T	S	E	A	■	T	E	C	■	A	L	P
I	O	N	S	■	M	O	D	E	R	N	■	■
S	W	A	T	T	E	D	■	L	A	N	A	I
L	E	I	■	A	N	D	■	E	V	E	N	S
E	L	L	■	B	U	S	■	B	E	D	I	M

Friday's answer 8-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Casey Affleck, 38; Rebecca Gayheart, 42; Pete Sampras, 42; Peter Krause, 48.

Happy Birthday: Engage in conversation and interact with people from different backgrounds or those who have knowledge or skills that can enhance your life, the way you live or the way you do things in the future. Re-evaluation will help you adjust and take advantage of the changing world we live in, keeping you current and ensuring your success. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 23, 30, 36, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take a serious look at the relationships you have with others. Some are keepers, but others aren't. It's time to make alterations to your life, your friendships and the way you move forward. A change of plans, location or personal direction is required. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discuss differences and how you'd like to move forward with the people you must deal with on a regular basis. Love is in the stars, and good fortune can be yours if you are honest with others and true to your beliefs and desires. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Things are looking up. Let your charm work its magic, and you will receive the help and support you need to get ahead. Honesty must be at the forefront of whatever you discuss with friends, relatives or your peers. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make sure your motives are in check and that you are following the path that will bring you satisfaction and happiness. An emotional matter should make you realize how to go about getting what you want. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your charm and generosity will make others feel important and contribute, raising your popularity and improving your reputation. You will face plenty of choices, and change will brighten your day. Home improvements will bring you greater happiness. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Work hard, share your thoughts, ideas and plans for the future and consider what you need to do or find out in order to get ahead. An old friend, colleague or lover will spark your imagination and your interest. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Think before you take action. You'll be inclined to overreact or be overly sentimental. Focus on the positive and the people who bring you the greatest joy. Don't let change cause stress. Embrace the inevitable and keep moving. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be aware of your surroundings and avoid trouble. Being attentive, loyal and supportive will ensure that you get the most in return. Love is on the rise, and sharing your feelings physically rather than through words will bring better results. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Offer assistance to a cause you believe in, and you will make a difference. You will be rewarded as well as admired by onlookers and impress people who can make a difference to your future and your financial situation. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Readdress your current situation and status, and you'll find a way to improve your reputation and your lifestyle. Love and romance are highlighted and can lead to a turning point that could bring you greater happiness. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Face facts and look at your current situation honestly. The changes you begin to make now will bring you greater discipline and options in the future. Make decisions based on your needs, not in order to please someone else. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look over contracts, money matters and any deal that can make or break your plans for the future. Networking and sharing your ideas and plans will drum up interest from people who can make a difference in how you move forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, outgoing and adaptable. You are a participant.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3				9				4
		6	8		2	5		
	9			3			7	
	8		6		7		9	
1		7		5		8		2
	2		4		8		5	
	3			7			1	
		5	2		1	7		
2				6				5

Difficulty Level ★ 8/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	3	6	1	4	7	2	8
4	2	1	8	3	7	5	9	6
7	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	4
6	9	4	5	8	1	3	7	2
3	1	5	2	7	6	4	8	9
8	7	2	3	4	9	6	5	1
2	3	6	4	5	8	9	1	7
5	4	7	1	9	2	8	6	3
1	8	9	7	6	3	2	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LET'S EAT OUT **Solution: 8 letters**

A	P	P	L	E	V	I	S	N	E	P	X	E	H	B
N	A	P	K	I	N	S	E	R	V	E	D	Y	A	A
L	B	S	T	N	A	R	U	A	T	S	E	R	M	N
U	U	S	P	L	F	O	R	K	S	N	B	E	B	A
S	I	N	A	I	(F)	(O)	(O)	(D)	O	E	S	D	U	N
N	U	D	C	I	H	O	N	M	C	P	P	R	R	A
O	S	P	S	H	C	C	E	U	I	A	A	O	G	I
I	A	H	P	S	E	H	E	T	R	S	E	F	E	R
T	N	S	O	E	D	S	I	T	N	T	H	A	R	E
N	D	U	O	I	R	E	I	C	S	R	C	S	S	T
E	W	N	N	P	M	E	A	L	K	Y	O	T	T	E
V	I	E	S	I	S	L	L	O	R	E	E	C	U	F
N	C	M	T	R	E	A	T	S	W	A	N	T	N	A
O	H	O	T	D	O	G	S	S	K	Y	D	N	A	C
C	A	K	E	S	N	U	B	S	R	E	N	N	I	D

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Apple, Banana, Barbecues, Buns, Cafeteria, Cakes, Candy, Cheap, Chicken, Chips, Conventions, Cook, Corn, Dine, Dinners, Expensive, Fast, Fish, Food, Forks, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Lunches, Meal, Menus, Money, Napkins, Nuts, Order, Parties, Pastry, Pies, Restaurants, Rolls, Salads, Sandwich, Served, Spoons, Steaks, Supper, Time, Tips, Treats, Want

Last Friday's Answer: Designers

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1**, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) General Maintenance – Salary $5.55p/h. 1 years experience required. Call Habibur Rahman/ Rahman Enterprise at 285-2504.

1-Building Maintenance. Minimum salary. With 3 years experience. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a SAFE 2-3 bedroom house. Preferably with ocean view. Call Alex at 989-2502

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/ mo. Pls. visit our website www. saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sam's Sons Inc.
Dba: Sprockets & Rockets
is in need of
Bookkeeper (Part time)
Will work 24 hours a week with flexible schedule. Interested applicant please forward resume to ming@pacifictactitcalsupply.com not later than Tuesday, August 13, 2013.

Transpacific Corporation
P.O. Box 500756, Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
Building Maintenance Repairer
Duties include minor plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting and other related work as assigned. 5 years work experience.
PLEASE SEND RESUME TO OUR OFFICE.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
BOUTIKI

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

TEAM LEADER

Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

PIC Employment Applications are available at the Security Desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is 5pm on August 16, 2013.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Full time position available for our Saipan branch. Applicant must have good knowledge of personal computers. Position involves installing software, diagnosing common problems and also includes customer service. We can train the right applicant!

DIAL Rent-to-Own
234-7368

Plenty of Benefits!
- ✓ Paid Vacations
- ✓ Paid Holidays
- ✓ Paid Sick Leave
- ✓ Salary based on experience

Computer Tech

Requirements:
- US permanent resident
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs
- Friendly and self-motivated
- Excellent communication skills
- Dependable transportation

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit their application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. Building, Lower Base, by August 23rd, 2013. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Jackson W. Jack
P.O. Box 503523
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 287-3355

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter Of the Adoption Of: J.B.P.J. (D.O.B. 07-10-1996) Minor Child,	)))))	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0348
By: JACKSON W. JACK, Petitioner	))))	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 16, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2013.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Joseph A. Arriola
P.O. Box 10003 PMB 632
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 483-0207

Pro Se Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA, Petitioner,	]]]	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0311**
vs.	]]	**SUMMONS**
JOVIE A. CERVEZA, Respondent.	]]]	

TO: RESPONDENT JOVIE. A CERVEZA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint for Divorce, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Petitioner Joseph A. Arriola, whose address is P.O. Box 10003 PMB 632, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 13-045 **Opening Date:** Tuesday, August 05, 2013
Closing Date: Monday, August 19, 2013

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Prepares response letters to customers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION:	*CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN****.*
POSITIONS:	*Six (6).*
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Furyk has lead heading to final round of PGA

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP)—The final moments Saturday at Oak Hill brought out more emotion as big putts kept falling in the PGA Championship, with one big difference.

These putts were for par.

Jim Furyk, after a 3-wood struck so poorly off the 18th tee that he couldn't have reached the green even if he had been in the fairway, worked his way up the 472-yard hole until he had a 15-foot putt from the fringe to keep a one-shot lead. The ball curled into the left corner of the cup, and the 43-year-old emphatically shook his fist.

Adam Scott, whose sweet swing turned sour on the last few holes, was on the verge of letting the lead get another shot away from him when he knocked in a 15-foot putt for par on the 17th hole, bowed his head and pumped his fist.

And then there was Jason Dufner, whose disappointment turned to surprise on the 18th hole when he took a step toward the cup to tap in a missed putt and watched gravity pull it into the hole for a par that put him in the final group.

Perhaps those scenes were a prelude for Sunday, the final round of the final major of the year.

"It's only going to get harder," Furyk said.

Oak Hill finally had enough elements for a tough test, and Furyk showed enough of his western Pennsylvania grit for a 2-under 68 and a one-shot lead over Dufner.

Grinding to the end in a swirling wind that cast doubt on so many shots, Furyk closed with two clutch putts—one for birdie to regain the lead, the par putt to keep it—that put him 18 holes away from winning another major 10 years after his U.S. Open title.

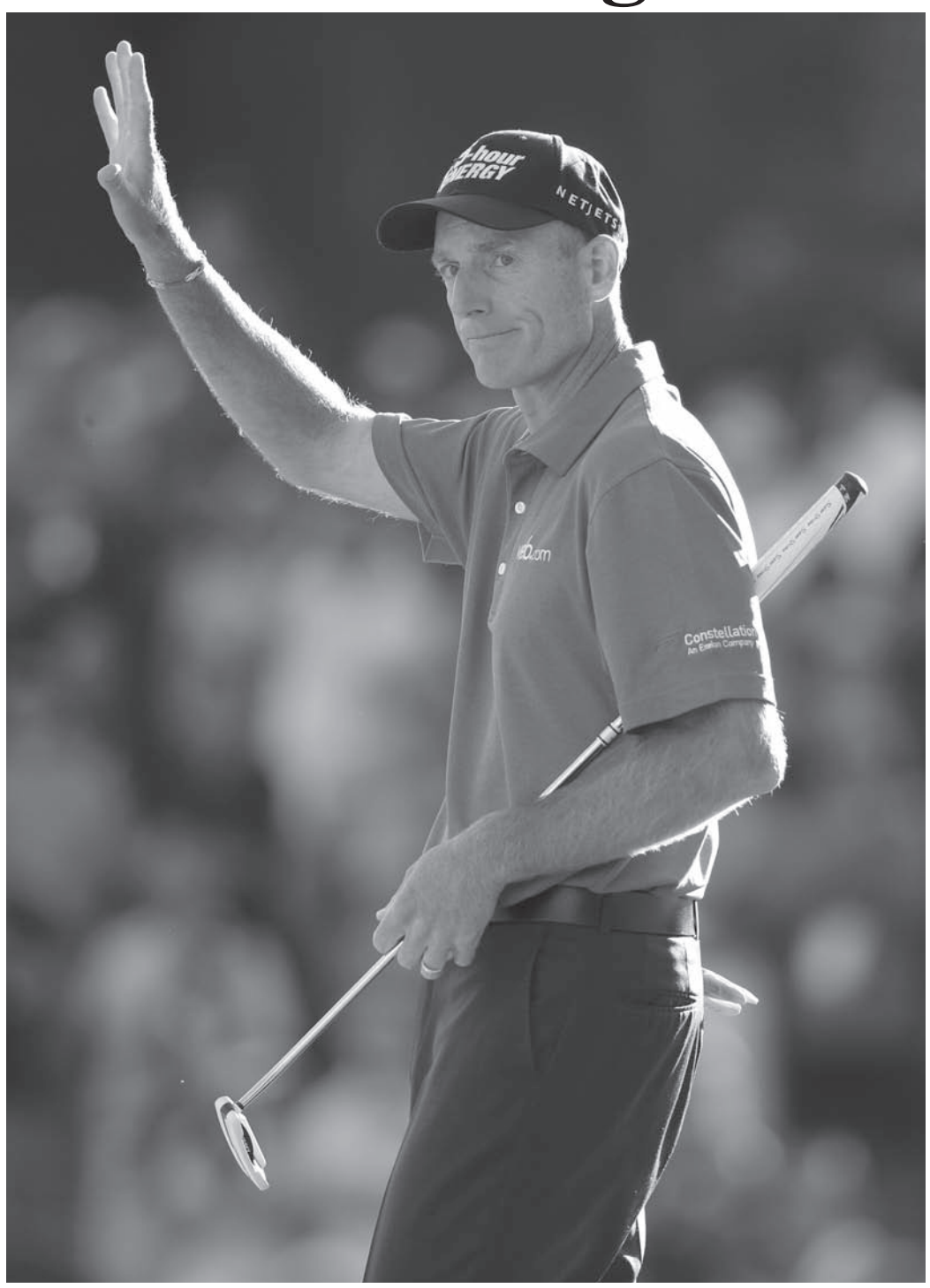
There was nothing fancy about the way he worked his way to the top of the leaderboard at 9-under 201, but then, that's rarely the case with Furyk. He made three birdies and two tough pars on the back nine, and the one bogey was a bunker shot that hit the pin and rolled 7 feet away.

He was so wrapped up in his game that he didn't even know the score.

"Give me a leaderboard. Where are we at?" he asked before he was told he was one shot ahead of Dufner, and two clear of Henrik Stenson.

"I'm comfortable with where I'm at," Furyk said. "There's a crowded leaderboard at the top, and instead of really viewing it as who is leading and who is not, I'm really viewing it as I need to go out there tomorrow and put together a good, solid round of golf. Fire a good number and hope it stacks up well."

Dufner was eight shot worse than his record-tying 63, but at least he got into the final group at the PGA Championship for the second time in three years. At the Atlanta Athletic Club in 2011, he had a four-shot lead with four holes to go and lost to Keegan Bradley in a playoff.



AP

Jim Furyk celebrates after a birdie on the 18th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

"I was young, new to doing the majors," Dufner said. "I think that was the third or fourth major I played in. So hopefully, the experience I've had since then will pull me through and give me a chance to win tomorrow."

Stenson, a runner-up at the British Open three weeks ago, dropped only one shot over the last 16 holes and ran in a pair of 12-foot birdie putts for a 69 and was two shots behind. Sweden's odds of winning a major have never been this high. Stenson will play in the penultimate group with Jonas Blixt, who had a 66.

The surprise was Scott, who was poised to seize control at any moment.

Scott blasted a driver on the uphill, 318-yard 14th hole that was so pure he snatched his tee from the ground as the ball was still rising. It stopped 25 feet below the cup, and he had an eagle putt to tie for the lead. The Australian two-putted for birdie, and two holes later fell back with a double bogey on the 16th. Scott escaped further damage with a 15-foot par save on the 17th and managed a 72. He was four shots behind, along with Steve Stricker, who had a 70.

Those were the only five players within five shots of the lead.

Still with an outside chance was Rory McIlroy, who came to life with three birdies over his last six holes for a 67. McIlroy, trying to join Tiger Woods as the only repeat winners of the PGA in the stroke-play era, knocked in a 40-foot birdie putt on the 17th and then showed more emotion than he has all year when he chipped in for birdie on the 18th.

"It was good to feel the sort of rush again," McIlroy said.

He was at 3 under, still six shots behind.

Woods, meanwhile, will have to wait eight more months to end his drought in the majors. He opened with two bogeys in three holes and shot a 73 to fall 13 shots behind. It was a shocking performance from the world's No. 1 player, mainly because he was coming off a seven-shot win at Firestone that included a 61.

Woods has made only seven birdies in 54 holes - four of them on par 3s.

British Open champion Phil Mickelson was even worse. He sprayed the ball all over Oak Hill on his way to a 78, matching his highest score ever in the PGA Championship.

No one looked terribly comfortable at the start, not with the swirling wind and water hazard that winds its way along the front nine.

U.S. Open champion Justin Rose fell apart early with back-to-back double bogeys that sent him to a 42. He wound up with a 77. Scott opened with a 20-foot birdie putt, only to follow with back-to-back bogeys. And when Dufner ended his string of pars by driving into the creek on No. 5 for double bogey, it appeared that this tournament was wide open. The leaders steadied themselves, leaving the title Sunday it still up for grabs but likely among fewer players.

Scott knows as well as anyone how unpredictable a final round can be.

He was four shots up with four holes to play at the British Open last year and watched Ernie Els win the claret jug. At Muirfield last month, Mickelson came from five shots behind on the final day and won by three.

"I would like to be leading," Scott said. "Four back is well within reach. Anything can happen in a major. We just saw the pin spots get tough today, and scoring in the final groups was very difficult. With so much danger around, it's hard to be completely free where major pressure is on the line. Tomorrow is going to be similar."

Colts embrace global flavor inside locker room

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP)—Walk around Colts training camp, and it's like taking a trip around the world.

"You were born in Japan, too?" offensive lineman Emmett Cleary asked receiver Rodrick Rumble after one recent practice.

"Yeah, man," Rumble said as the two undrafted rookies walked into the locker room together.

Rumble didn't last long. He was one of two players cut Thursday morning.

But there are nearly a dozen others around with international connections.

Linebacker Bjoern Werner, Indy's top draft pick, first came to the U.S. as an exchange student from Germany, Kenya's Daniel Adongo is trying to make the transition from rugby player to linebacker, right tackle Gosder Cherilus lived in Haiti until he was 12. Linebacker C.O. Prime is a Quebec native. Cleary was born in Tokyo and Rumble on an American military base in Yokosuka before moving to Washington state.

The parents of defensive lineman Ricky Jean Francois and fullback Stanley Havili moved to the U.S. after living in Haiti and Tonga.

And then there are the world travelers. Andrew Luck spent part of his childhood living in London and Germany where his father, Oliver, worked, and linebacker Jerrell Freeman starred in the CFL before setting a Colts record with 203 tackles in 2012. Before becoming the best clutch kicker in NFL history, Adam Vinatieri was making field goals for Amsterdam in the World League of American Football, and defensive lineman Aubrayo Franklin took his first professional snaps in Frankfurt, Germany.

It makes for some interesting conversations on the Anderson University campus.

"I think in five years, you won't be calling me when you have 30 players from Europe playing," said Tommy Wiking, president of the International Federation of American Football. "That will be the norm."

For a league that has trailed the NHL, NBA, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer in worldwide appeal, this season could be the breakthrough Wiking and others have waited for.

Players who were born or reared in Australia, England, Estonia, Ghana, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia and Tonga were among the 333 invitees to this year's annual NFL scouting combine. That list included Ezekiel "Ziggy" Ansah, Star Lotulelei and Werner—all among the top 25 picks.

Werner, who was called The Berlin Wall and The Germanator at Florida State, is the first graduate from USA Football's International Student Program to reach the NFL. With foreign players already closing the gap on the U.S. in this uniquely American sport, Wiking said Werner's success is bound to add more athletes to the mix.

"His success is really important in Germany, getting the German kids to participate on the world team," Wiking said. "It's huge for recruitment in Germany."

Cherilus and Jean Francois, whose parents lived in Haiti, have provided assistance to the poor island country as it continues to recover from the deadly 2010 earthquake. Adongo is still getting acclimated to a helmet and pads, and Havili, who the Colts got in a trade with Philadelphia, just wants to make his parents proud.

"You're representing the whole island every time you pull that jersey on, you're representing your mom and dad," Havili said, explaining that's a traditional part of Polynesian culture. "My dad provided for eight kids by driving a bus, and he still drives a bus, and I think about that every time I come out here on the field. It motivates me."

Not everyone knows the stories, though, as the meet-and-greet between Cleary and Rumble attests.

"My father works in the financial industry so he took a job in Tokyo, and then we lived in Germany briefly, too," Cleary explained. "My dad thought he met Andrew's dad at some party over there (in Germany)."

The big question now is which of these players will still be around for Indy's season opener, Sept. 8 against Oakland.

Cherilus, Freeman, Luck and Vinatieri are all entrenched starters. Jean Francois and Franklin are expected to play key roles in Indy's revamped defense. Havili is trying to become the first true fullback to make the Colts roster in years, and the Colts are being patient as Werner makes the transition from college defensive end to NFL linebacker.

That leaves Adongo, Cleary and Prime fighting for roster spots in a football world that seems to be expanding by the year.

"Football is getting more and more global," Cleary said.

Cabrera, Hunter lead Tigers in romp over Yanks

Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera (24) follows through on a single during the first inning of a baseball game as New York Yankees catcher Austin Romine looks on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Miguel Cabrera homered against the Yankees again and had three hits while playing on a bandaged leg and Torii Hunter connected and drove in four runs Saturday, leading the Detroit Tigers over New York 9-3 in the American League.

Anibal Sanchez (10-7) tossed seven easy innings against a Yankees lineup that was without Alex Rodriguez. Manager Joe Girardi said he was giving the third baseman a day off after he struck out three times in his season debut in the Bronx.

Austin Jackson followed a four-hit, three-double night Friday with a homer and triple against the team that drafted him. Don Kelly had a two-run single off Phil Hughes (4-11) as the AL Central division leaders won for the 17th time in 21 games.

Cabrera hit his 35th home run.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 4

In Toronto, Josh Reddick hit two home runs, a day after connecting three times for Oakland, but the Toronto Blue Jays got shots from Jose Bautista and Jose Reyes to beat the Athletics.

Reddick had homered only five times this season before launching a trio of long balls Friday night in a 14-6 romp. He tied the MLB record for homers over two games.

Reddick hit a two-run drive off Mark Buehrle (8-7) in the second inning and a leadoff home run in the ninth against Casey Janssen, who got his 21st save.

The A's lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Buehrle (8-7) won his third straight decision. He allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Sonny Gray (0-1) went six innings in his first MLB start.

White Sox 5, Twins 4

In Chicago, Conor Gillaspie lined a go-ahead single in the sixth inning as the Chicago White Sox rallied past Minnesota.

Jordan Danks homered and rookie Andre Rienzo pitched 5 1-3 innings in his home debut as the White Sox ended a five-game losing streak against the Twins.

Justin Morneau and Oswaldo Arcia homered for the Twins.

David Purcey (1-1) struck out two in an inning for the win. Addison Reed earned his 28th save in 33 chances.

Mike Pelfrey (4-10) allowed five runs in five-plus innings.

Angels 7, Indians 2

In Cleveland, C.J. Wilson won his fourth consecutive decision as Los Angeles sent Cleveland to its sixth straight loss.

Wilson (12-6) allowed two runs in 5 1-3 innings for his eighth win in his last 11 decisions. The left-hander hasn't lost since July 5.

Ubaldo Jimenez (8-7) allowed three runs in 6 1-3 innings for the reeling Indians, who committed a season-high four errors and trail Detroit by eight games in the AL Central division. Cleveland began its seven-game homestand three games out of first, but was swept in four games by the Tigers and has dropped the first two to the Angels.

Mike Trout reached base for a 40th consecutive game.

Rangers 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Alex Rios starred in his Texas debut, tying the game with an RBI triple in the eighth inning and scoring the go-ahead run in a comeback victory over Houston.

Elvis Andrus added a two-run homer as the Rangers extended their winning streak to a season-high six games.

Rios, who was acquired from the Chicago White Sox on Friday, tripled off reliever Lucas Harrell (5-13) in the eighth inning to tie it after a double by A.J. Pierzynski. Rios then slid feet first into home on a ball hit by Mitch Moreland, scoring when catcher Jason Castro dropped the ball for an error to put Texas up 5-4.

Jason Frasor (3-2) allowed one run in the seventh for the win.

Red Sox 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jacoby Ellsbury matched a career high with four hits and drove in a pair of runs to lead Boston over Kansas City.

Ellsbury had RBI-doubles in the fourth and sixth innings and also stole his MLB-leading 42nd base.

Red Sox starter Felix Doubront gave up three runs on six hits and four walks in four-plus innings

He was replaced by Brandon Workman (3-1), who picked up his second victory of the week with 1 1-3 scoreless innings. Koji Uehara pitched a flawless ninth to collect his 12th save in 15 chances.

Royals right-hander Jeremy Guthrie (12-8), who had won his previous four starts, threw a season-high 123 pitches in seven innings, allowing five runs on 10 hits and a walk.

Brewers 10, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Scooter Gennett capped a six-run seventh inning with a three-run homer off the glove of right fielder Michael Morse to lead Milwaukee to victory.

Milwaukee put its first three batters on base in the seventh before Gennett hit his homer. The Brewers added four more in the ninth against Seattle's bullpen.

Tom Gorzelanny had his best performance of the season for the Brewers, giving up just three hits in seven innings.

Seattle starter Hisashi Iwakuma (10-6) matched Gorzelanny for the first six innings, but quickly fell apart in the seventh.

Marlins 1, Braves 0

In Atlanta, the Atlanta Braves' 14-winning streak ended Saturday night with a 1-0 loss to the last-place Miami Marlins, who scored the lone run on reliever Jordan Walden's wild pitch in the ninth inning.

Miami stopped its own six-game losing streak.

The Braves fell one victory shy of tying the 2000 team for the franchise's longest winning streak since the 1891 Boston Beaneaters won 18 straight.

Adeiny Hechavarria led off the Miami ninth with a triple and scored on the wild pitch by Walden (4-2).

Marlins starter Nate Eovaldi allowed one hit in seven innings. Mike Dunn (3-3) got the win and Steve Cishek earned his 24th save, striking out Paul Janish with a runner on first to end it.

Nationals 8, Phillies 5

In Washington, Jayson Werth launched a two-run homer in the seventh inning for his 1,000th career hit, highlighting a five-run rally that sent Washington over Philadelphia.

Werth got three hits, including an RBI single in the fourth and his two-out shot off reliever Zach Miner.

In his second MLB game, Tanner Roark (1-0) pitched two spotless innings. Tyler Clippard surrendered Domonic Brown's 26th home run in the eighth and Rafael Soriano pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

Jake Diekman (0-3) took the loss.

Darin Ruf also homered for the Phillies, who have dropped 10 straight road games.

Padres 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Will Venable homered for the second game in a row, and San Diego's depleted offense took advantage of Cincinnati's season-high four errors for the victory.

Third baseman Jack Hannahan had three of the errors—two on off-target throws to first base, another on a grounder that got through him.

Venable hit his team-high 15th homer in the eighth inning off reliever Manny Parra.

Tyson Ross (3-5) gave up Brandon Phillips' RBI single in the first, one of only four hits he allowed over seven innings. Huston Street pitched the ninth for his 22nd save in 23 chances.

Three of Cincinnati's errors came behind Tony Cingrani (5-2).

Cubs 6, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, pinch-hitter Dioner Navarro hit a run-scoring double in the eighth inning to cap a three-run rally that gave Chicago its first series win in St. Louis in nearly three years.

Matt Holliday homered for twice St. Louis, which lost its fourth in a row. Chicago won for the third time in four games.

The Cubs trailed 4-2 entering the eighth, but tied it 4-4 on Darwin Barney's two-out, two-run double by off reliever Trevor Rosenthal (1-3). Navarro followed with his fifth pinch-hit RBI of the season to give Chicago a 5-4 lead.

Blake Parker (1-1) picked up the victory for the Cubs, who last won a series in St. Louis in September 2010.

Kevin Gregg picked up his 25th save in 29 opportunities despite giving up Holliday's 15th homer of the season, a solo shot with one out in the ninth.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, rookie Wilmer Flores drove in three runs to extend his RBI streak to four games and Zack Wheeler pitched effectively into the seventh inning to lead New York past Arizona.

Flores had a run-scoring single off Brandon McCarthy (2-6) in the fourth inning and a two-run single in the eighth, giving him eight RBIs in his first five games in the majors.

Juan Lagares hit a solo homer and Wheeler (5-2) allowed a run over 6 1-3 innings to bounce back from a shaky outing in his previous start.

LaTroy Hawkins worked around a baserunner in the ninth for his third save in five chances.

Aaron Hill homered for Arizona, which had its three-game winning broken.

Rockies 6, Pirates 4

In Denver, Dexter Fowler had two hits and two RBIs and Colorado used a big sixth inning to beat Pittsburgh.

The Pirates have lost two straight after winning 14 of 19. Leadoff man Starling Marte left the game in the seventh inning with a left hand injury after being hit by a pitch.

The Rockies put together a two-out rally in the sixth against A.J. Burnett. Nolan Arenado doubled to score Michael Cuddyer, Jonathan Herrera walked and pinch-hitter Charlie Blackmon doubled to tie the game 3-all.

Fowler laced a two-run single to end Burnett's night.

Burnett (5-8) allowed six runs—five earned—on eight hits while striking out eight in 5 2-3 innings

Rex Brothers gave up a run in the top of the ninth before striking out Andrew McCutchen and Alvarez to end the game for his ninth save.

Dodgers 1, Rays 0

In Los Angeles, Zack Greinke scattered six hits through 6 1-3 innings and Adrian Gonzalez homered as Los Angeles beat Tampa Bay despite Evan Longoria's hidden ball trick.

Skip Schumaker added four hits for the NL West division leaders. Tampa Bay lost its fourth straight, matching their longest skid this year.

Most everything went well for the Dodgers, except when Tampa Bay got tricky. Longoria tagged out an unsuspecting Juan Uribe when he lifted his foot off third base while chatting with coach Tim Wallach in the fourth inning.

The rarely seen play occurred after A.J. Ellis hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly, with all three runners moving up.

First baseman James Loney wound up with the ball behind the mound. He flipped it to shortstop Yunel Escobar, who then quickly tossed the ball to Longoria while no one seemed to be looking. Longoria stood behind Uribe and waited to trap him.

Greinke (10-3) struck out seven and walked one. Roberto Hernandez (6-12) gave up five runs and eight hits in four innings.

Giants 3, Orioles 2

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning as San Francisco's stagnant lineup finally got to Baltimore starter Wei-Yin Chen.

Chris Davis hit his majors-leading 42nd home run for the Orioles leading off the eighth against Santiago Casilla, then grounded out against closer Sergio Romo to end it with a runner on first.

Nick Markakis added three hits, but Baltimore had its three-game winning streak.

Guillermo Moscoso (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Romo earned his 27th save in 31 chances. Chen (6-5) took the loss.

Pacquiao: My comeback starts in fight with Rios

BOXING

BEVERLY HILLS, California —Manny Pacquiao will be coming off the longest layoff of his incredible career when he steps back into the ring in Macau in November.

It will also be two years since the former pound-for-pound champion's last victory.

But Pacquiao thinks his bout with Brandon Rios will just be the start of his comeback, not a retirement party.

Pacquiao made his last public appearance in North America on Thursday before heading back to the Philippines, where the congressman will start training camp in October.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Rios pose for a photo during a fight promotional tour in New York for their November bout in Macau.

Although Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 KOs) is unshakably confident in his abilities, trainer Freddie Roach acknowledges he will have to discuss retirement with Pacquiao if the brawling Rios (31-1-1, 22 KOs) pulls an upset.

Pacquiao also will train without longtime strength coach Alex Ariza, who was fired by Roach.

Pacquiao, in a presser on Wednesday in New York, clarified that in his last fight against Juan Manuel Marquez, where he suffered a one-punch knockout in the sixth round, his conditioning was not top notch.

So crossing paths against a much younger boxer in the 27-year-old Rios, more than willing to trade punches, can set the stage for Pacquiao's redemption on the ring.

"People think that my boxing career has ended after my last fight. But my condition was amazing, one of the best. I just got careless and Marquez got a good shot," said Pacquiao.

"I chose Rios because he's a good fighter, he throws a lot of punches and very aggressive. There's going to be more action in the ring and I can prove that I can still fight and my career is not done yet," Pacquiao also said.

Rios meanwhile, sees the upcoming mega fight as a launching pad to superstardom.

"I wanna show the world that Rios is the next super star on the rise," Rios said. "I'm ready 100%. I'm ready to fight."

Trainer Robert Garcia, meanwhile, said his fighter, "has everything in his power to come out with a win. He is going to come out and surprise the world."

The NYC presser was part of the fight promotional tour, which reached as far as Macau, Beijing and Shanghai in China and Singapore.

CNMI

From Page 28

Scott Kim, Joel Fruit, Bo Barry, Jehn Joyner, Jireh Yobech, and Yoshi Mafnas.

The Johann Noetzel-coached squad plays its last game today against Macau and must win the match to avoid finishing last in the six-team field. Though both winless, the CNMI may have the slight psychological edge against Macau, as some of the Commonwealth players were part of the squad that clinched a historic 2-1 win over the Portuguese colony during the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament at the Taipei Municipal Stadium.

Meanwhile, after three rounds of play and pending results of last Sunday's matches, Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong are tied for the lead with their similar 3-0 records. Chinese-Taipei shut out Macau in the Day 1 of the competition, 1-0; downed North Korea in Day 2, 3-1; and defeated Guam in Day 3, 3-1. Hong Kong debuted with a 3-1 win over Guam and then blanked Macau last Thursday, 3-0, before pounding the CNMI at the resumption of action of the EAFF competition. Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong collide for the possible championship-clincher game today at 5:15pm.

Korea, which holds a 2-1 record, getting its second win over the winless Macau, 1-0, after losing to Chinese-Taipei, was scheduled to face Hong Kong yesterday and plays its last game today against Guam (1-2).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A CNMI defender is down on the field as he hustles for the ball during their game against Hong Kong in the 2013 EAFF U18 Youth Tournament last Saturday at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo.

GIANTS

From Page 28

seventh inning to extend the game. However, Giants pitcher Kenji Yamagata wanted to go home early and finished off the Tigers, picking up a grounder and then striking out the last two batters.

The Giants had to rely on Yamagata's pitching and capitalized on the Tigers' errors in the end, as the latter made a rally in the fourth and fifth inning after facing a 1-4 deficit. The Giants got three unearned runs and one off K.J. Deleon Guerrero's base hit in the first three innings, while Ricardo Dela Cruz scored the lone run for the Tigers off Keene Deleon Guerrero's sacrifice fly.

Then in the fourth inning, it was the Giants' turn to commit errors and the Tigers turned them into three runs to move closer. The Giants got a run back at the bottom of the fourth, but the Tigers answered with three at the top of the fifth off Dela Cruz's two-run single and an unearned run to grab the lead, 7-5.

However, the Tigers failed to hang on top, as their pitchers struggled in the last two innings. The Tigers used three different pitchers in the closing innings and they committed one wild pitch after another and the rest of their teammates also made costly errors, allowing the Giants to score two runs at the top of the fifth to tie the match and then got more one in the sixth to steal the win.

In the second game, Frankie Lieto scored off errors to lift the Braves to the close win. With two outs, Lieto walked to first and then moved into second and third off the Dodgers shortstop and third baseman miscues. Lieto did not stay at third for long, as after a walk, A.J. Lizama came rushing to second and then third, allowing the former to reach home. Lizama earlier notched the game-tying run, 2-2, in the sixth inning, stealing second and third and making it home off a J. J. Lifoifoi base hit. Peter Lieto logged the first run for the Braves, scoring off a Dodgers' booboo in the second inning.

The Dodgers got into the board in the third off Craig Aguon's unearned run and took the lead in the fourth with Aguon pinch running for Nathan Camacho. The Dodgers then failed to widen the gap, as Braves relief pitchers Cody Kaipat and Lifoifoi came in and combined for five strikeouts in the last three innings.

Meanwhile, one more game was played in the league for players in the 14 to 18 age group and results of the Padres and Yankees match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

JOURNALIST

From Page 28

said the CNMI is fortunate to have decent fields. He had been to various countries and had seen the worst with fields having big holes and animals running on the unkempt grass and leaving their waste.

McIntrye, who is here with his wife and two children and will be back in Japan today, added that it is important the CNMI started from the bottom and try to emulate the programs of successful teams in its region.

"If you will try to follow the path of Germany and other powerhouse in Europe, it will be tough. But if you will look at Japan and Korea, it is possible. Twenty years ago, Japan had terrible pitches and not so many good players. They have amateur players before J-League was launched. Australia went through the same process before getting to technical revolution and producing great players," said McIntrye, who played for amateur football clubs in the Land Down Under.

As for his book, McIntrye said he decided to focus on Asian football because the region has a lot of good stories, characters, and great matches. His said the discoveries are endless and the people's passion for the sport is fascinating.

"I hope to finish the book by the end of this year," added McIntrye, who is planning and praying to visit Tehran, Iran and other "danger zones" to complete his project.

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan thanked McIntrye for showing interest in CNMI football.

"We want to thank Scott for taking time to understand CNMI football. His visit will somehow help us promote CNMI football to the rest of the world," Tan said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	71	48	.597	—
Tampa Bay	66	49	.574	3
Baltimore	64	52	.552	5½
New York	58	57	.504	11
Toronto	54	62	.466	15½

Central Division

Detroit	69	46	.600	—
Cleveland	62	55	.530	8
Kansas City	60	54	.526	8½
Minnesota	51	63	.447	17½
Chicago	44	71	.383	25

West Division

Texas	67	50	.573	—
Oakland	65	50	.565	1
Los Angeles	53	62	.461	13
Seattle	53	63	.457	13½
Houston	37	78	.322	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	71	46	.607	—
Washington	56	60	.483	14½
New York	53	61	.465	16½
Philadelphia	52	64	.448	18½
Miami	44	71	.383	26

Central Division

Pittsburgh	70	46	.603	—
St. Louis	66	50	.569	4
Cincinnati	64	52	.552	6
Chicago	52	64	.448	18
Milwaukee	51	66	.436	19½

West Division

Los Angeles	66	50	.569	—
Arizona	59	56	.513	6½
Colorado	54	64	.458	13
San Diego	53	63	.457	13
San Francisco	52	64	.448	14

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PITTSFORD, New York (AP) — Scores Saturday from the PGA Championship, an $8 million event at the par-70, 7,177-yard Oak Hill Country Club, East Course:

THIRD ROUND

Jim Furyk	65-68-68—201
Jason Dufner	68-63-71—202
Henrik Stenson	68-66-69—203
Jonas Blixt	68-70-66—204
Steve Stricker	68-67-70—205
Adam Scott	65-68-72—205
Rory McIlroy	69-71-67—207
Lee Westwood	66-73-68—207
Dustin Johnson	72-71-65—208
Kevin Streelman	70-72-66—208
Roberto Castro	68-69-71—208
Marc Warren	74-67-68—209
David Toms	71-69-69—209
Zach Johnson	69-70-70—209
Bill Haas	68-70-71—209
David Lynn	69-69-71—209
Charley Hoffman	69-67-73—209
Webb Simpson	72-64-73—209
Robert Garrigus	67-68-74—209
Matt Kuchar	67-66-76—209
Marc Leishman	70-70-70—210
Francesco Molinari	72-68-70—210
Ryo Ishikawa	69-71-70—210
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	68-71-71—210
Rickie Fowler	70-68-72—210
Scott Piercy	67-71-72—210
Jason Day	67-71-72—210
Luke Guthrie	71-71-69—211
Scott Jamieson	69-72-70—211
Boo Weekley	72-69-70—211
Michael Thompson	72-67-72—211
Marcus Fraser	67-69-75—211
Justin Rose	68-66-77—211
Rafael Cabrera-Bello	68-75-69—212
K.J. Choi	76-65-71—212
Graeme McDowell	70-69-73—212
Sergio Garcia	69-68-75—212
Brandt Snedeker	70-73-70—213
Ken Duke	75-68-70—213
David Hearn	66-76-71—213
Josh Teater	71-71-71—213
Brendon de Jonge	71-71-71—213
Keegan Bradley	69-72-72—213
Hideki Matsuyama	72-68-73—213
Ryan Moore	69-71-73—213
Chris Kirk	71-69-73—213
Paul Casey	67-72-74—213
Ryan Palmer	73-70-71—214
Brooks Koepka	71-72-71—214
Tiger Woods	71-70-73—214
Martin Kaymer	68-68-78—214
D.A. Points	73-70-72—215
Harris English	74-69-72—215
Danny Willett	73-70-72—215
J.J. Henry	71-71-73—215
John Senden	72-70-73—215
Vijay Singh	70-72-73—215
Thorbjorn Olesen	71-70-74—215
Peter Hanson	72-69-74—215
Matteo Manassero	72-69-74—215
Tim Clark	69-71-75—215
Miguel Angel Jimenez	68-72-75—215
Matt Jones	72-71-73—216
Scott Stallings	73-70-73—216
Tommy Gainey	69-74-73—216
John Merrick	75-68-73—216
Darren Clarke	69-73-74—216
Shane Lowry	71-70-75—216
Thongchai Jaidee	70-71-75—216
Hunter Mahan	70-68-78—216
Ben Curtis	73-70-74—217
Ian Poulter	70-71-77—218
Stephen Gallacher	75-68-76—219
Phil Mickelson	71-71-78—220
Gary Woodland	73-70-80—223

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobil makes semis after PIC meltdown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil is in the semifinals. Pacific Island Club is not.

Thanks to Armatech, which pulled off a 67-64 spoiler against the stunned PIC in the final regular season game in the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League 2013/Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC's loss gave value to Mobil's 92-82 victory over Mariana Resort last Saturday. Before their last assignment in the regular season, PIC and Mobil were tied in second place with their similar 5-2 records and the former would have had the edge in case of another deadlock due to the winner-over-the other rule and would have joined the unbeaten AXE Proa (8-0) to the semifinals.

The two outright semis berths were given to the Top 2 finishers in the round-robin regular season and PIC almost punched the last ticket, but it slipped away from its hands in less than a minute.

An Elmer Esdrelon triple from the left key put PIC's semis bid in jeopardy, as Armatech grabbed the lead, 64-63, after trailing by as much as 13 in the first two minutes of the fourth canto, 43-56. Armatech could have seized the driver's seat earlier after breaking the seven-point barrier, 47-63, however it muffed several layups going into the last four minutes of the match before Esdrelon and Junar Guiab connected on back-to-back jumpers to move within 1.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Junar Guiab, right, taps the ball away from the hands of Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo, while Yosh Gabaldon holds his ground on defense during the fourth quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC, which savored its double-digit lead too much, then felt the pressure on its next offensive set, as it failed to make a basket. Armatech then pushed up the ball with Brendon Talania, who kept his team in the game, scoring 8 straight points in the fourth, poised to pull up for another jumper. However, Talania overheard coach Pando Muleta telling him to swing the ball to Esdrelon, who was wide open for a trey, and the former obliged, giving Armatech a shaky one-point lead, 56 seconds remaining on the clock.

Now down, PIC continued to get rattled and took two hurried shots and muffed both of them. Guiab controlled the rebound and put money on the bank with his two charities to silence the PIC supporters. A desperation trey from Darwin Barbo went off the rim and PIC was forced to commit a duty foul after another miss. Talania split his charities to seal it for Armatech, which is in standoff with PIC and KFC for the third to fifth place in the team standings. The three tied squads and Mariana Resort (4-5) will fight for the last two semis slots tomorrow. The pairings for the Tuesday's win-or-go-home games will be announced once the triple-tie is resolved (via quotient system).

KFC got into the three-team logjam after winning via forfeiture against the Ol'Aces (1-7) in the first game last Saturday. The first match in last Thursday's schedule was also called off after a no-show from both the Ol'Aces and San Roque, which joined the winless Blazers (0-8) in the showers.

THURSDAY

Mobil 92 – Pelisamen 28, Peredo 14, Ruluked 13, Rabauliman 12, Estolas 11, Babauta 2.

Mariana Resort 82 – Mangali 20, Galarse 15, Sison 15, Joyner 13, Moises 10,Fitial 3, Dayrit 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 42-40, 69-62, 92-82.

SATURDAY

Armatech 67 – Talania 30, Esdrelon 14, David 9, Guiab 6, Berline 4, Ano 3.

PIC 63 – Demapan 13, Barbo 11, Hambros 10, Ne. Salem 9, Abuy 7, Duenas 7, Isip 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-23, 28-37, 43-52, 67-63.

S.J. Ol'Aces top Sonics in Rotary U19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The S.J. Ol'Aces outclassed the defending champions Sonics, 49-39, in the first game in the U19 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With the win, the S.J. Ol'Aces remained undefeated in two games, while the Sonics absorbed their first loss after going 2-0. The Sonics won their debut against Proa/Mariana Resort, 69-43, late last month and then routed the Ol'Aces, 60-34, last Monday.

The defending champions went on to miss their third victory in a row, after making only two field goals and 4 points in the fourth quarter. Up by a precarious one-point lead, 39-38, the Sonics were scoreless for the remaining six minutes and change in the final canto.

In contrast, the S.J. Ol'Aces closed out strong with Chris Mizer leading the team's offense. His triple going into the final three minutes of the match gave the S.J. Ol'Aces more distance, 43-39. A Darius Pettis drive off three Sonics defenders made it a 6-point game and after another Sonics miss, Kobee Mendoza fed Mizer for a baseline drive to up the lead to 8, 47-39.

The Sonics had a lot of time left to mount a comeback with the clock reading at 1:45, but their shots simply could not fall in, while Mendoza went 2-for-2 from the foul line on the other end to ice it for the S.J. Ol'Aces.

Mizer top-scored in the S.J. Ol'Aces' second win in as many games with his 15 points, while Pettis added 12. Jaymark De Guzman paced the Sonics with his 11 markers, but he scored most of them in the second canto, and was one of the only two players of the defending champions to buy a basket in the fourth period. Jack Aranda was the other one, but he finished with only 7 points and connected only one triple.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The S.J. Ol'Aces' Chris Mizer drives strong to the basket against the Sonics' Jimmy Tudela, right, and Erick Dela Rosa during a U19 game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics guard drilled three treys in their domination of the Ol'Aces last Monday and totaled 15 markers.

The Sonics took control of their game against the younger Ol'Aces crew right from the start and unleashed the killer blows in the fourth canto. The Sonics were ahead by only 11 at the end of the third, 37-26 when they scored 23 points against the 8 of the Ol'Aces to take the 26-point winning margin.

The defending champions held the Ol'Aces to single digit in scoring in three of the four quarters in the game to move up to a 2-0 record before bowing to the S.J. Ol'Aces.

MONDAY

Sonics 60 – Aranda 15, Feria 12, Tudela 8, Javier 8, N. Salem 4, Alegre 4 Dela Rosa 4, Borromeo 3.

Ol'Aces 34 – Espinosa 11, Morales 7, Aldan 5, Ano 4, Iglecias 3, Cayading 2, Fidelino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-8, 21-14, 37-26, 60-34.

FRIDAY

S.J. Ol'Aces 49 – Mizer 15, Pettis 12, Babauta 7, Mendoza 5, Olopai 4, Maui 3.

Sonics 39 – De Guzman 11, Aranda 7, Feria 6, Salem 5, Dela Rosa 4, Alegre 2, Tudela 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-8, 27-20, 35-35, 49-39.

CNMI tennis players start bid in POJC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Allen M. Perez, left, Chief Asset and Office Manager of Bridge Capital, LLC, turns over a check donation to CNMI junior tennis player Robbie Schorr, who is competing in the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2013 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships begin today in Fiji with the strong CNMI Team leading the North Pacific's battle against the East and West squads.

Playing for the Commonwealth, which had the best showing among the 19 competing nations in the last two POJC, and the North teams are Carol Lee, Tania Tan, Michael Ren, Robbie Schorr, Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Moris Villanueva, Chris Cajigan, Tommy Choi, Amami Sakano, Jake Lee, and Thea Minor. Completing the squad are the Federated States of Micronesia's Margaret Finnen, Terry Lee Rush-Apis, Anne Skilling, Tilda Tollenoa, and Joab Williams, Palau's Ayana Rengiil, and Kiribati's Tito Bira, Banian Ioera, and Lataisi Mwea.

The CNMI-led North will be challenging players of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu of the West and Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga of the East and representatives of Oceania Tennis Federation associate members New Caledonia and Tahiti.

The three zones will be competing in the girls and boys U12, U15, and U18 singles and doubles events. Draws of each age group were done yesterday, but have yet to be posted on the tournament website at press time last night. The boys and girls U12 are divided into two groups with each pool having 6 players apiece. The Top 2 finishers in each group will advance to the semis. In the boys U15, the 16 players are spread in four groups with the Top 2 in each pool making it to the playoffs. The girls U15 has only 12 players divided into two groups with the Top 2 in each pool marching into the semis. The same format (Top 2 in each pool qualifying for the playoffs) will be implemented in the boys and girls U18 divisions, which have 10 and 8 players, respectively.

Games in the POJC will be played in Nadi and Lautoka, where the CNMI bets had a chance to practice over the weekend after arriving in Fiji last Friday. The 13 Commonwealth players practiced together in Lautoka last Saturday, while the U12 team (Ren, Lee, Tan, and Schorr) trained in Nadi for two hours with coach Jeff Race and Lydia Tan.

Meanwhile, Bridge Capital, LLC donated $1,000 to Schorr for his debut in the POJC.

"Bridge Capital, LLC believes in enriching the lives of its stakeholders, including its employees and the youth of the CNMI. As part of this goal, we are proud to announce a $1,000 donation to Robbie Schorr, one of the CNMI's top tennis players, to help him out as he competes in the 2013 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. Robbie's mother Hannah is an integral part of our Property Management Division. We wish Robbie and the entire CNMI junior tennis team all the best," Bridge Capital stated in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Giants, Braves survive opening games

ROSELYN B.MONROYO

A Braves runner gets tag out at first base during the top of the third inning of their game against the Dodgers in the opening of the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Giants and Braves notched similar hard-earned wins in the opening of the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

In the first match, the Giants edged the Tigers, 8-7, while the Braves slipped past the Dodgers in the second game, 3-2.

The Giants' go-ahead run came at the bottom of the sixth inning with Ray Borja making it home off wild pitches. Borja's crucial score was a heartbreaker, as the Tigers were just one out away after closer Perry Celis struck out the first two batters before walking the former.

The Tigers got the third out on a 1-3 putout play against Allan Cepeda and were pressed to score at least one run at the top of the

See GIANTS on Page 26

CNMI still searches for win in EAFF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Victory remains elusive for the CNMI U18 National Team, as it absorbed two more losses in the 2013 EAFF U18 Youth Tournament.

After a 1-4 defeat to powerhouse North Korea last Wednesday at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo last Wednesday, the Teen Ayuyus suffered a 0-7 beating at the hands of the host last Thursday and then fell to Hong Kong last Saturday, 0-14.

The CNMI U18 National Team was playing Chinese-Taipei yesterday afternoon and were trailing at halftime, 0-8, but the complete results of the match were unavailable at press time. Goalie Christopher Aninzo started out for the Teen Ayuyus against Chinese-Taipei and were joined by Diego Masga, Enrico Del Rosario, Won Young Kim, David Yang,

See CNMI on Page 26

Journalist gathers info on Saipan for Asian football book

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A broadcast journalist from Australia has been in town for a week, gathering information about CNMI football for a book he is working on.

Scott McIntyre, a senior football reporter/presenter for the Sydney-based Special Broadcasting Service, arrived on Saipan last week and has met local football officials, players, coaches, and other stakeholders in the sport. He is on leave from SBS, as he is working on a book about Asian football and the information he gained here will be included in this project.

"To be honest, I was surprised to find out that football just started here a couple of years ago. Football is a global game and has been played in various countries for decades, so the CNMI's situation is very unique," McIntrye said.

"But you got something promising here because of the hardworking officials and the players' willingness to learn and improve their games. I heard the number of players joining the sport continues to increase. For such a country with small population, that's good news," he said.

The visiting journalist also

See JOURNALIST on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Football journalist Scott McIntyre, back row in black shirt, poses for a group photo with players practicing at the San Antonio Elementary School yesterday.